



**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. VOLKAN BOZKIR
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
International Day of Reflection on the
1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda**

Twenty-seven years ago, the world changed over the course of one hundred days. The genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, pierced the conscience of humanity, as horrors took hold of the hills, and the world realized, the gravity of our collective failure.

Every year on this International Day, the world remembers the one million victims, who perished. We seek to restore their dignity.

We pledge, in their memory, to do better.

To stop hate speech, when it is first uttered.

To protect and uphold, the rights of every individual, without distinction.

To condemn incitement, harassment, and violence, against persons or communities.

To take timely and effective steps, to protect communities, that are under threat of mass atrocities.

To prevent future acts of genocide.

To ensure accountability and justice.

My heart is with all Rwandans today. Those who have suffered, those who have experienced loss, those who demonstrate resilience every day, and the new generation, who have inherited this heavy burden of grief.

I commend your dedication, to reconciliation and a brighter future.



Despite the darkness of the past, the rain gives rise to roses, that bloom in memory of the lost souls, and the sun shines on *the Land of a Thousand Hills*.

Kwibuka.