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Third United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS)

Session 2: Fostering sustainable peace and development through United Nations policing

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Statement by Rwanda

Madam Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

Mr. Alexandre Zouev, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions.

Colonel Yaov Okpaoul, Inspecteur Général de Police, Togo.

Distinguished participants and colleagues

At the onset, let me take this opportunity to join others in thanking Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for gracing this summit. I also wish to congratulate Police advisor Commissioner Luís Carrilho and his team for organizing this important meeting.

Our countries are more interlinked than ever before to the extent that criminals have misused opportunities offered by globalization to commit crimes in multiple countries simultaneously. Security problems in one continent, leave alone a country affects other countries. This meeting is an opportunity to reflect and deliberate on contemporary policing phenomena in United Nations policing settings and in countries in peace.

Peace is a prerequisite for economic development and investments to thrive. Police institutions are responsible for creating a favorable environment for social political activities, strengthening justice and accountability, which are critical aspects of rule of law.

In the aftermath of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, Police as an institution played a crucial role in restoring confidence among the people, advancing peace and reconciliation, and supporting transitional justice, which in turn encouraged people to concentrate on the development agenda. However, no Police institution can succeed without embracing principles of partnership, ownership, and inclusion.

The strong partnership between police institutions and the communities they serve is critical to maintaining public safety and effective policing. Police officers depend on the cooperation of community members to provide information about what is happening in their neighborhoods and to work with the police to devise solutions to crime and disorder problems. Similarly, community members' willingness to trust the police depends on whether they believe that police actions reflect community values and incorporate the principles of procedural justice and legitimacy.

Community Policing is essential to the institutions as it is to the police officers. Police officials should know and honestly believe that they are part of the community they serve. Cooperation with other public and private organizations and non-governmental organizations adds value to reliable policing since police officials know what people want.

Whether in the United Nations Peace operations or elsewhere, there is no size-fit policing approach. As development models are developed based on local context, policing is the same. As a top contributor of Police personnel to the United Nations Peace Operations, Rwanda believes that serving in respect to the culture and values of host nations enhances ownership and sustainability.

Police as an institution and policing as a duty should abide by the principle of serving the community without discrimination which is fundamental to confidence building and promoting social justice. Rwanda's experience shows that people-centered policing promotes equal opportunities for women and youth to share their potential for nation-building.

Thank you for your attention.