



# 27<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

Theme: “Remember-Unite-Renew”

At the African Union Headquarters | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

07 April 2021 | 11h00 - 12h30

LIVE ON ZOOM

## Concept Note

### Introduction

1. The African Union Commission (AUC)'s Department of Political Affairs Peace and Security of the (PAPS), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Ethiopia and Permanent Mission to the African Union is organizing the 27<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda at the AUC headquarter on the 7 April 2021.
2. It is recalled that over a period of just one hundred days, more than one million Tutsi were massacred. The OAU's report published on May 29, 2000, recognized the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi and con irmed that this genocide could have been prevented.
3. This year marks the 27<sup>th</sup> commemoration of those dark days. The AU has been holding annual commemoration events since 2010. It's an important occasion to remember the lives lost, show solidarity with survivors and unite to ensure it never happens again in Rwanda or elsewhere in Africa and beyond. It is also a chance to learn about Rwanda's story of reconciliation and nation building.
4. Each year's commemoration activities are guided by a theme and this year's theme is: “**Remember-Unite-Renew**”. We should all **remember** what happened in Rwanda in 1994 in order to learn lessons so as to avoid such tragedies. We should **unite** in order to pay our respects to those who were killed and offer our solidarity to the survivors. We should **renew** our commitment to our solemn declaration that never again shall such tragedy reoccur in Africa and elsewhere in the world.
5. **Remember:** The annual Commemoration co-organized by the African Union Commission and the Rwandan Embassy to the African Union in Addis Ababa is an opportunity to refresh our minds that genocide is a crime against humanity that deserves the harshest punishment. It should be prevented by all means and strategies possible.

6. **Unite:** The annual Commemoration is indeed an opportunity to galvanize all efforts at national, regional, continental and international levels against genocide ideology and collectively fight against all forms and manifestations of genocide ideology and denialism of genocide.
7. **Renew:** The annual Commemoration is also an opportunity for all Africans as well as global citizens to renew their commitment to ensure that genocide never happens again - anywhere. The commemoration continuously awakens greater awareness of the African peoples and the international community about the value of life and humanity, and to renew our collective commitment to protect and uphold fundamental human rights.

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## Purpose and Objectives

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8. The overall purpose of this annual commemoration is to continuously awaken greater awareness of the African peoples and the international community about the value of life and humanity, and to renew our collective commitment to protect and uphold fundamental human rights.
9. The specific objectives include:
  - a. To remember the atrocities of Genocide in 1994 against Tutsi in Rwanda;
  - b. To reflect on the repercussions that the genocide against the Tutsi in 1994 has had inside and outside Rwanda's borders;
  - c. To unite together to fight against genocide; genocide ideology as well as genocide denial and revisionism;
  - d. To collectively commit to justice and the fight against impunity;
  - e. To renew our resolve to ensure that Genocide does not happen ever again in Africa or elsewhere;

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## Programme of the Events

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10. The 27<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda will include the following events:
  - a. The 27<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda on 07 April 2021 from 11h00-13h00
  - b. Open Session of the Peace and Security Council on 12 April 2021 from 11h00-13h00.

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## Participation and Format

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11. The 27<sup>th</sup> Commemoration is organized by the African Union Commission in collaboration with the authorities and members of the Rwandan community and attended by Officials from the AUC, AU Member States, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, AU Organs, Religious Institutions, Human Rights Institutions, Intergovernmental organizations, Civil Society Organizations, UN Agencies, Think Tanks, International Organizations, Schools and Academic Institutions in Ethiopia.
12. This year the commemoration will take place differently because of the current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic which has drawn the attention of the global community. The format will therefore be hybrid with minimum physical presence in Mandela and the rest connecting on [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_zafaq0sXPSNGejiqENxcczQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zafaq0sXPSNGejiqENxcczQ)

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## Media Invitation

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13. Journalists are invited to cover and participate virtually in the above mentioned events to mark the 27<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

### *Contact details*

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