Rwanda Statement at the First Part of the High-Level Segment for Heads of State and Government, COP31
November 11, 2026 |Antalya, Turkey

- **Your Excellency President Erdoğan;**
- **Excellencies;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**

1. On behalf of His Excellency President Paul Kagame and the people of Rwanda, I commend the Government and people of Türkiye for hosting COP31, and thank Australia for presiding over the negotiations. As we gather to shape the future of our planet, COP31 must show that this process works and produces results.

2. Rwanda recently hosted the 38th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, ten years after the adoption of the Kigali Amendment. With 175 of 198 Parties having ratified it, the Amendment demonstrates what collective effort can achieve.

3. Fully implemented, it could avoid up to 0.5°C of warming by 2100, and up to a full degree when paired with energy efficiency. We therefore call on the remaining countries to join.

4. Rwanda believes climate action and sustainable development must advance together, and our Vision 2050, guided by our Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy, is our long-term pathway.

5. However, national action alone cannot deliver the transformation required. Under our third Nationally Determined Contribution, Rwanda commits to reducing emissions by 53 per cent by 2035 relative to business as usual.

6. This requires USD 12 billion, 80 percent of which is conditional on international support. We need predictable, accessible and adequate finance for adaptation and mitigation to achieve these targets.

7. We must also remove the barriers that keep capital from viable projects in developing countries. As President Kagame observed at the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the perception that “there are higher risks for the investments in the South than in the North” is misplaced. Investments should be judged on their merits, not their location.

8. Governments and the private sector must work together to make viable projects investable, deepen markets and mobilise capital on terms developing economies can afford, without adding to unsustainable debt.

9. Rwanda stands ready to cooperate with all nations. As we assume the Chairmanship of the G77 and China in 2027, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthening solidarity among developing countries and completing the outstanding work under the climate negotiations, including the Global Goal on Adaptation indicators on financial needs and finance provision.

10. Let COP31 be remembered not only for the commitments we make, but for the practical action we deliver together.

Thank you.