



Republic of Rwanda

Statement on the Termination of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture Mission to Rwanda

Geneva, 5 July 2018- The Government of Rwanda notes the decision of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) to terminate its visit to Rwanda. The decision of the SPT is a continuation of the violation of the core principles guiding interactions between both OPCAT bodies (SPT and NPMs) and State Parties that have characterised its interaction with Rwanda. It is indeed regrettable that in the 11 years of its mandate that the SPT has to terminate a visit due to its failure to uphold the cooperative spirit and letter of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

The allegations of lack of cooperation are untrue, unfounded and in bad faith and the Government of Rwanda rejects them now as it has rejected them previously. The Government of Rwanda acceded to and fully facilitated the visit of the SPT, including granting full and unimpeded access to places of detention and to detainees. Any and all issues that may have arisen during the visit, that were brought to the attention of the government of Rwanda were promptly addressed and responded to.

The fact that these allegations were first brought to the attention of the Government of Rwanda in the form of a public statement announcing the suspension of the visit, instead of engaging in constructive dialogue, including in meetings with the Minister of Justice, was in our view, a violation of the cooperative and collaborative letter and spirit of the OPCAT. Rwanda has repeatedly requested the SPT to substantiate these allegations and still awaits a formal response.

Rwanda is mindful of and committed to implementation of its obligations under international law including under the OPCAT. This is reflected in a series of reviews of our legislation, including the designation of a National Prevention Mechanism,

While Rwanda remains committed to open and constructive dialogue as well as seeking forward-looking solutions that are part of the core principles guiding interactions between both OPCAT bodies (SPT and NPMs) and State Parties for the effective implementation of the OPCAT and respect of its preventive spirit, Rwanda will continue to closely review her obligations as well as sovereign prerogatives as provided by the OPCAT.

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