



**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED BY HON. DR. VINCENT BIRUTA AND
HON. GEN. ODONGO JEJE ABUBAKHAR AT THE ELEVENTH
SESSION OF THE UGANDA - RWANDA JOINT PERMANENT
COMMISSION (JPC), HELD ON MARCH 22-24, 2023, KIGALI**

1. Recalling the agreement during the diplomatic and political consultations by both Ministers on 1st September 2022, Rwanda hosted the eleventh Joint Permanent Commission from 22nd – 24th March 2023.
2. The Rwandan delegation was led by Hon. Dr. Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda while Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, led the Ugandan delegation.
3. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to ensure that the JPC is convened biennially, as stipulated in the General Cooperation Agreement, and further directed the officials to convene the mid-term review on an annual basis, between sessions of the JPC, to review the status of implementation of decisions and explore new areas of cooperation.
4. The two Ministers exchanged views on existing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and discussed strategic areas of cooperation, including bilateral relations, infrastructure and cross-border trade, for the mutual benefit of both countries. Both Ministers hailed the historic and warm relations that exist between the two countries and stressed the need to continue working together to revitalize political, economic and social cooperation.
5. Wishing to further strengthen the state of bilateral relations between the two countries, the two Ministers witnessed the negotiations and signing of Memoranda of Understanding in the following areas:
 - i. Diplomatic and Political Consultation;
 - ii. Migration;
 - iii. Justice and Constitutionalism;
 - iv. Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters

6. The two Ministers agreed to revive the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIPs) mechanism, to further materialize the gains achieved so far, including: One Network Area (ONA), the Single Customs Territory, the Single East African Tourist Visa, free movement of persons and goods, among others.
7. The Ministers exchanged views on regional and continental developments and further resolved to strengthen the two countries' cooperation in multilateral fora. In this regard, they underscored the importance of continued efforts and commitment to peaceful resolution and dialogue in resolving conflicts.
8. The Ministers further commended the efforts of regional and sub-regional frameworks aimed at finding lasting solutions to these conflicts which severely impact the lives and livelihoods of our peoples. In the same spirit, the Ministers reiterated both countries' commitment to good neighbourliness and the safety of our citizens.
9. Both Parties welcomed the 11th JPC which provided an excellent platform for dialogue and cooperation. They further called upon officials of both countries to ensure the expeditious and full implementation of decisions reached during this JPC and report progress made at the 12th Session of the JPC.
10. The Ministers agreed that Uganda will host the 12th session of the JPC in 2025 at a date and venue to be mutually agreed upon by both parties through diplomatic channels.
11. At the conclusion of the JPC, the Ministers commended the renewed bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of the 11th JPC. Hon. Odongo expressed his appreciation and deep gratitude to Hon. Biruta, the Government, and the People of the Republic of Rwanda, for the warm reception and hospitality extended to the Uganda delegation.

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