

**REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND COOPERATION**

**RWANDA TO RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH FRANCE**

**Kigali, 29 November 2009**

The Government of Rwanda today announced the decision to reinstate relations with France. This follows delivery of a message to President Paul Kagame from President Nicolas Sarkozy by a delegation led by Claude Guéant – Secretary General at the Elysee, at a meeting held in Kigali today.

Following the meeting, Rosemary Museminali, Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs said, "This is the culmination of extensive consultations between Rwanda and France at many levels. Today, President Kagame and President Sarkozy spoke on the phone and agreed to immediately start the process of normalization of relations between Rwanda and France, including the re-opening diplomatic ties. We also look to working out in due course all outstanding issues based on mutual understanding"

Since severing ties with France in November 2006, Presidents Kagame and Sarkozy have met twice, first during the EU/Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007 and during the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2008. French Foreign Minister, Bernard Kouchner has also travelled to Kigali twice, and Rwandan and French officials have held several discussions in an effort to find common ground.

Speaking to press in Kigali, Mr Guéant said that since the election of President Sarkozy, his government has made efforts to turn the page and normalize relations with Rwanda. He pointed out that the moment had come to work together with Rwanda on issues of common interest.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated that this move is consistent with Rwanda's policy to maintain good relations and cooperation with all bilateral and multilateral partners, both in the region and beyond.

**END**