

President Paul Kagame has called on African countries to take full responsibility for their security, emphasizing that the continent possesses the capacity to address its challenges without relying on external actors.

Speaking at the opening of the second International Conference of Land Forces Chiefs of Staff (LFCS) in Kigali, Kagame said Africa should trust its own ability to manage security issues. “The belief that others will shoulder Africa’s security responsibilities is misplaced. None of the challenges we face exceed our capabilities to address them,” he said.

The three-day conference, running from October 20 to 22, brings together military leaders from 19 countries, alongside security experts, researchers, and international peace and security stakeholders. Participants include representatives from Burundi, France, Benin, Nigeria, Chad, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Uganda, Guinea, Jordan, Morocco, and South Sudan.

President Kagame highlighted Rwanda Defence Forces’ (RDF) role in promoting peace and stability both regionally and continent-wide as an example of what African militaries can achieve through commitment and cooperation. He said the conference reflects unity, shared vision, and the collective capacity to explore solutions for peace and security.

“Integrity, efficiency, and professionalism are key determinants of success for land forces,” Kagame said. “Troops who live closely with communities must protect security and well-being. Their conduct can either build or destroy trust.”

He stressed the importance of collaboration, especially as security threats evolve with technology. Cyberattacks, misinformation, and other modern challenges require coordinated responses to ensure national and regional stability.



The LFCS serves as a platform for exchanging strategies, experiences, and best practices in land force operations. Kagame’s remarks underscored the need for African militaries to work together, leverage their strengths, and remain adaptable in a rapidly changing security environment.

The conference aims to strengthen ties among African military leaders, promote professional development, and reinforce a collective approach to peace and security across the continent, demonstrating that Africa can take charge of its own destiny.