

Rwanda on Wednesday said that women are playing an increasingly important role in its diplomatic service, as the country joined the world in marking the International Day of Women in Diplomacy.

Officials said the growing presence of women in ambassadorial posts, multilateral negotiations and international cooperation roles has strengthened Rwanda's foreign relations and contributed to peacebuilding and development partnerships.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said women diplomats have been central in advancing bilateral and multilateral ties, supporting peace initiatives and reinforcing the country's international engagement agenda.

Rwanda has become known for high levels of female representation in public leadership, including in government and diplomatic missions, following years of gender inclusion policies aimed at expanding women's participation in decision-making roles.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Usta Kaitesi said the commemoration recognizes women who continue to represent the country abroad while helping to build stronger international partnerships.



*State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Usta Kaitesi*

"Today, we wholeheartedly celebrate the outstanding Rwandan women serving in diplomacy," Kaitesi said. "Your dedication to international relations and cooperation makes us proud, and your contributions remain invaluable. We remain committed to promoting women's participation and leadership in diplomacy."

Despite gains in some countries, women remain underrepresented globally in diplomacy and peace processes. United Nations data covering 1992 to 2019 shows women accounted for about 13% of negotiators in peace processes worldwide, and about 6% of mediators and peace agreement signatories.

Research has found that increased participation of women in peace processes is associated with more durable agreements and broader inclusion of community interests.

The International Day of Women in Diplomacy was established in 2022 by the

United Nations General Assembly to recognize women's contributions to Foreign Service and international negotiations.

President Paul Kagame has previously said inclusive development requires the participation of all citizens, noting that sustainable progress cannot be achieved if any segment of society is excluded from decision-making.