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# REMARKS OF HER EXCELLENCY MRS JEANNETTE KAGAME

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Segal Family Foundation Annual General Meeting



JULY 13, 2023

KIGALI  
Rwanda

**Honorable Dr. Abdallah Utumatwishima, Minister of Youth,**

**Nelly Mukazayire, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Board,**

**Martin Segal, Board Chair of the Segal Family Foundation,**

**Members of the Board of Directors,**

**Executive Director Andy Bryant,**

**Esteemed partners, agents of change, and guests from the world of philanthropy,**

**Good morning!**

- Welcome to this 10<sup>th</sup> Segal Family Foundation Annual General Meeting!
- Ten times thus far, you have convened across the world, to revisit your impact on social justice, for the communities you diligently serve.

- Ten times thus far, you have re-committed yourselves to enhanced service, sharper policies, and greater funding for visionary local leaders.
- And, ten times thus far, you have honoured your past pledges.
- For this, may acclaim and encouragement be yours.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- Sound and resolute partnerships have indeed proven their efficacy.
- Your very mission, Segal Family Foundation, attests to your wisdom in this matter.
- Indeed, your “*connecting of donors and doers*” has nurtured countless dreams across the continent, and transformed them into tangible realities.

- And speaking of transformation, **Distinguished Guests**: thank you for accompanying us, on our own quest for unnegotiable equity, and dignity for all!
- How very apt this year's General Meeting theme should be "*Transforming how change happens in Africa*".
- You have understood and matched Imbuto Foundation's vow to place its own brick in the building of a transformed nation.
- What a path we have jointly trailed, and walked!
- Together, we have challenged each other, as I believe all strong partners must!
- Together, we have crafted a shared, possibly unique role, in empowering community-based organisations, to drive the change they desire and deserve.
- Together, we have opposed the flawed notion that Africa must remain on the receiving end of aid, rather than Africa supporting itself, nurturing itself and developing itself.

- Yes. Together, we have turned ideals into actions: contributing to improved education, health, and leadership outcomes for tens of thousands of secondary-school students, university students, and young people from different walks of life<sup>1</sup>.
- In doing so, we have invested in, and shown our trust for, youth-led, community-based organizations. Some of these current and future agents of change are here today, and their presence indicates how much our investment yields sustainable gains.
- I invite you, **Dear Guests**, to join me in celebrating the fact that almost half of Segal Family Foundation-funded organizations in Rwanda are women-led.
- We are particularly receptive to such intentional centering of women; our country relies equally on women and men to achieve our development goals.

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<sup>1</sup> Some of the Impact to date:

1/ 2,016,137 people were reached by awareness messages Awareness on sexual reproductive health and family planning and Gender Based Violence.

2/ 921,784 youth were engaged through youth forums.

3/ 482,950 clients received sexual reproductive health and HIV prevention services.

4/ 345, 538 clients received long term family planning services.

5/ 10, 641 secondary scholarships awarded.

6/ 6,681 girls awarded for academic performance.

7/ Upgrade our electronic data management system.

- Rwanda’s Gender Mainstreaming laws and policies, under the watchful eye of our Gender Monitoring Office, defend gender equality principles and promote gender equality principles, at all levels; from state budget allocation, to maternity leaves for female employees in all registered offices and organisations, down to the protection of women and girls from Gender-Based violence.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- The economy, technology, the state of global health, and every other feature of our experience as citizens of the world, have evolved since your inception, Segal Family Foundation, almost two decades ago.
- With these changes have come invaluable progress in our populations’ welfare, but this progress has been tailed by new challenges.
- We know mental health to be in greater need of attention and interventions; we know technological advances to pose the threat of widening the gender-gap.

- We watch daily as, around the world, global warming, conflict and resource misallocation threatens food supply – even across fertile regions.
- This knowledge must inform decisive action, and this, sooner than tomorrow.
- We must wield our collective strength and resolve, our collective determination to be a force for good, our shared creativity and diverse expertise, to overcome the challenges we face, old AND new.
- May we leave this year’s meeting inspired and invigorated, with renewed strength to amplify the voices of those who need it the most.
- To the “Doers” of Segal Family Foundation’s good work: you are the spark from which we must all draw light. As you contribute to the development of our communities, you ensure that the next generations have healthy, blazing torches to pass onto one another.
- As I conclude, allow me to express my deepest gratitude to the Segal Family Foundation and entire teams for their tireless efforts in supporting early-stage organisations.

- I bear no doubt that together, at our respective levels, transformations of our own making can occur, riding the waves of change, as opposed to seeing these waves wash over us.
- I wish us all a wonderful swim.
- Thank you for your kind attention!