

WELCOME REMARKS

BY CHAIRPERSON KIGALI PRESS FOUNDATION, **Mr. Gaspard Safari**

Guest of Honor, CEO, Rwanda Governance Board, **Prof. Anastase Shyaka,**

Secretary General of the International Association of Press Clubs **Mr. Jaroslaw Włodarczyk,**

Head of the European Union Delegation **H.E. Michael Ryan,**

UN Resident Coordinator Representative **Mr. Andrew Mold**

Distinguished Delegates of ACP PRESS CLUBS

Board and members of Kigali Press Foundation,

Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you all a very warm welcome on behalf of Kigali Press Foundation and to say how grateful we are to have you here.

Since 2015, the Brussels EU Press Club and the ACP Secretariat have worked closely with KPF to host the ACP Press Clubs Congress in Kigali.

Kigali Press Club has also worked closely with Rwanda Governance Board, a body that coordinates media development in Rwanda to host this meeting.

The purpose of this Congress is to bring together National Press Clubs of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in the first ever congress of its kind, with a view to establishing a dynamic and sustainable umbrella Federation of ACP Press Clubs.

This federation will serve as a platform to raise awareness about ACP issues, as well as enhance the visibility of the ACP Group.

It is an opportune time to renew contacts and discuss issues of mutual interest with delegates from member clubs of the Region

It is gratifying to note that the agenda of the meeting covers a wide range of very interesting topics on Media and Communication in a Changing Global Landscape. Participants from different regions will have opportunity to exchange views on best practices, challenges and opportunities.

The fact that we are meeting as ACP Group in Kigali is already a statement. We have to leave this Congress with a clear message of what we intend to be and demand our place in international arena.

In concluding, I wish you every success in your deliberations and a very pleasant stay in Rwanda.