



Fourth CVF Leaders Meeting: Development Reset and Cooperation

*23 September 2025, 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM (EDT)
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York City*

Your Excellency Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Chair of the CVF-V20; Excellencies, heads of state and government; honourable ministers; ladies and gentlemen: good afternoon.

On behalf of the Government of Rwanda, I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important event. As a member of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, Rwanda understands our shared responsibility to respond meaningfully to the climate crisis.

Like many countries represented here today, Rwanda's experience of climate vulnerability is far from abstract. Our national vulnerability assessments show exposure deepening year on year: in livelihoods, in agriculture, in infrastructure, and across our economy. More worrying, recent projections put the cost starkly, indicating that climate-related impacts could shave five to seven percent off our GDP. That is not a distant risk or a single disaster to recover from; it is a standing tax on our development, levied whether or not we caused the damage.

This is precisely why the Climate Vulnerable Forum exists, and why Rwanda takes seriously what membership asks of us. We support the CVF-V20 Leaders Declaration and the operationalization of the Lifeline Fund. We support the push for UN Observer Status for the CVF-V20, because the countries carrying this burden should have a stronger voice in the rooms where decisions about it are made. And we support reform of the international financial architecture, because adaptation at the scale our vulnerability demands will not be financed on today's terms. We need concessional finance and investment that match the urgency we are describing.

But we are also convinced that adaptation alone cannot be where this ends. We can build all the resilience in the world and still lose ground if emissions keep rising at their current speed. That responsibility falls first on the highest emitters, but all of us have a role, and Rwanda intends to play ours.

That brings me to one of the fastest, most concrete levers available to any of us: full implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. Fully implemented, the amendment avoids up to half a degree of warming by the end of the century; paired with improvements in energy efficiency, that impact doubles to a full degree. Few actions on the table today offer that much climate benefit for such achievable effort.

This November, Rwanda is proud to host the 38th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, marking ten years since the Kigali Amendment was adopted. And today, here in New York, we are launching the Friends of the Kigali Amendment, a coalition to drive universal ratification, accelerate implementation, mobilize the partnerships and resources needed, and ensure that industry delivers efficient, climate-friendly cooling technologies at scale. I invite you to join this coalition, and I invite you to Kigali in November for MOP38 to help finish what the amendment started.

Together, we can take practical steps to reduce the vulnerabilities we all understand so deeply and make our countries more secure. Thank you so much.

RT. HON. DR. JUSTIN NSENGIYUMVA

Prime Minister

Republic of Rwanda