

Opening remarks By Jean Claude Musabyimana, RCMRD Governing Council Chairperson and PS Ministry Lands and Forestry, Republic of Rwanda

Guest of Honour

RCMRD- GC Members

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are meeting here in Nairobi for the 51st Governance council of RCMRD;

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank our guest country the Republic of Kenya for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all the participants of this Council. We all are feeling as comfortable as if we were at home.

Guest of Honor

Dear Colleagues members of the GC

Ladies and gentlemen

Having an important center like RCMRD is an opportunity for our countries especially in the era of knowledge driven economies and social welfare. We all know that accurate remote sensing and geospatial data are important source of information to our daily fighting to adapt ourselves to the changing climate and to well plan for actual and future generations. This center has been playing an active role in introduction of technologies, development of tools and maintenance of systems and equipment meant for GIS, remote sensing and all mapping support to our respective countries. We thank the visionary and fore-sighting management of the Center, and we thank the staff of RCMRD for their dedication to the development of mapping art for resources development in all countries members.

We are proud that during the year 2017, RCMRD continued its core mission to “promote sustainable development in the member states through generation, application and dissemination of geo information and allied ICT services and products”. A lot have been achieved including:

- Provision of technical services in all countries members as approved in the annual work plan,
- Capacity and capabilities development in countries members: more than 700 people were trained
- Advisory services to member states
- Research and development activities
- Strengthening of internal control and governance of the center
- Expansion of relationship with countries and other organizations;
- And many other activities.....

We now are meeting here to take stock of the achievement of RCMRD in this year, as it will be presented during the meeting, to discuss on the challenges the center is facing, and to reflect on the way forward for a stronger partnership for the development of our respective populations.

Dear Members of GC

We expect from members of GC tangible contributions and support to achieve the dream of having a strong, self-reliant and well managed regional center, able to respond to Countries expectations and to sustainably perform its core mission.

I take this opportunity to thank all the country members who have positively responded to the invitation to this 51st meeting of the RCMRD-GC.

Let me thank once again thank the Principal Secretary who have accepted to be with us during this opening ceremony and I invite him for his remarks and for official opening of the Governance council.

Thank you.