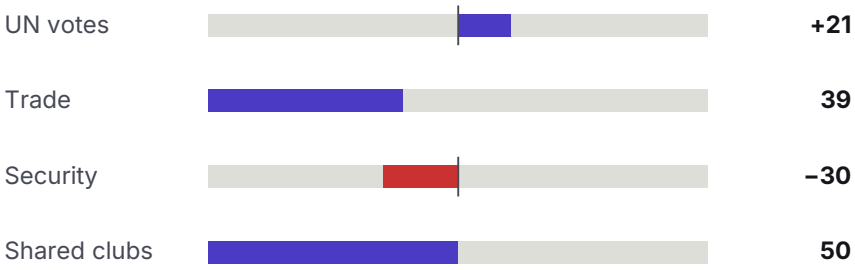
Rwanda & South Africa

+14

Neutral

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

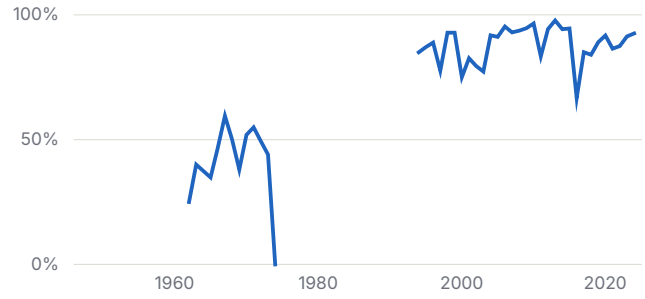


IN SHORT

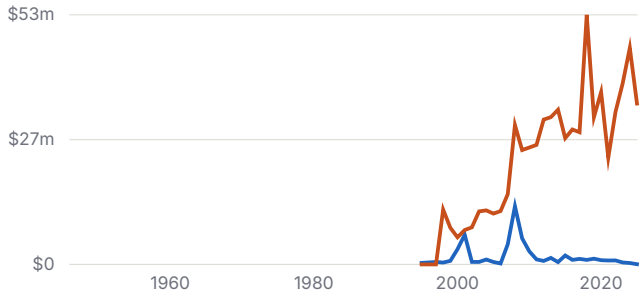
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the war in DR Congo, each supporting a side, most recently in 2025.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 90% (2022–2024), higher than either of them has with most countries.
- Trade in goods ($40 million a year) is modest for Rwanda, much less so for South Africa.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Rwanda names South Africa far more often than the reverse (145 sentences against 7).
- 3,200 people born in Rwanda live in South Africa (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved). A separate count, by UNHCR: 1,500 refugees and asylum seekers from Rwanda in South Africa; the two counts measure different things and are not added up.

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way



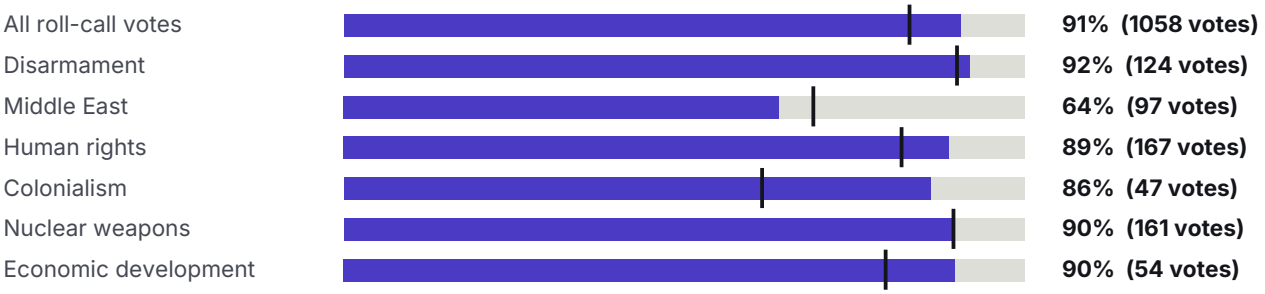
Goods exports each way (US dollars)



Rwanda sells to South Africa South Africa sells to Rwanda

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on disarmament (92% of votes the same), furthest apart on Middle East (64%), against 91% on all votes since 2010.



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of Rwanda and South Africa was 90% in 2022–2024. For Rwanda, South Africa is the 89th most distant voting partner out of 191; for South Africa, Rwanda is the 49th closest partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $40 million a year in 2023–2025: 0.9% of all Rwanda's trade and less than 0.1% of South Africa's.
Words	Since 1946, Rwanda has named South Africa in 145 sentences of its General Debate speeches; South Africa has named Rwanda in 7.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them supporting opposite sides of a third party's armed conflict (DR Congo, 2013–2025).
People	3,200 people born in Rwanda live in South Africa (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met twice.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	224 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±7 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as
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