

REPORT ON NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, AUGUST 8, 2014

Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the United Nations Office Uganda, organized a one-day National Consultative Workshop on the post-2015 Development Agenda on August 8, 2014. The workshop took place in the main conference hall, Office of the Prime Minister, and was attended by 162 participants from various Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), civil society, the private sector, youth, academia, members of Parliament and development partners.

Welcome remarks were made by Hon. Sam Kutesa, incoming President of the UN General Assembly and Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Guest Speaker was H.E Amina Mohammed, UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on Post 2015 Development Planning. The Keynote Address was provided by Hon. Prof. Tarsis Kabwegyere, Minister for General Duties, Office of the Prime Minister.

Statements and presentations were also made by Hon. Maria, Kiwanuka, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu, Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Mwesigwa Rukutana, representing the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Dr. Kisamba Mugerwa, Chairman National Planning Authority, Mr. Gideon Badagawa, Executive Director, Private Sector Foundation, among others.

Background

The workshop was following on earlier extensive consultations in Uganda in 2012/13 which sought to generate national perspectives on the Post 2015 international development agenda that will replace the MDG framework which ends in 2015. This was part of a global process of consultations to generate views from a broad range of government and non-government actors, including general public, on how the Post 2015 international development agenda should look like.

The consultations in Uganda took place at different levels and involved Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), development partners, civil society, youth, women, persons with disabilities, labour and employers and academia. The consultations were informed by Vision 2040, the National Development Plan (NDP), Uganda's experience with implementation of the MDGs, the Rio+20 process in which Uganda had concretized her position on the new global development framework, and the outcome of the international conference on population and development (ICPD).

The consultations culminated into a one-day meeting organized by the Parliamentary Forum on MDGs and the Parliamentary Forum on Children on April 22, 2013 at hotel Africana in Kampala. The meeting was attended by 249 participants from parliament (75 MPs), government, 35 CSOs,

27 media organisations (radio, TV and print), private sector representatives, UN agencies in Uganda, the World Bank, the EU delegation, and the embassies of Germany, Denmark and Ireland. The report of the meeting, which contained 32 concrete recommendations, formed one of the resource documents for the report of the High Level Panel of Experts that was submitted to the UN Secretary General in 2013.

National Consultations Workshop, August 8, 2014

The workshop on August 8, 2014 was informed by this background, and the election of Hon. Sam Kutesa to the Presidency of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly on June 11, 2014. It was also against the background of earlier formulation of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN Open Working Group from the ongoing consultations.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- i. Stimulate discussions with-stakeholders on the alignment and integration of the post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals into the second National Development Plan (NDPII)
- ii. Stimulate discussions on the means of implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and the Post 2015 Development Agenda as well as other topics of interest for the Ugandan presidency of the General Assembly (such as climate change, gender equality and women's empowerment and peace and security)
- iii. Consolidate Uganda's position (including position of stakeholders and civil society) for the intergovernmental Post 2015 negotiations that will commence in September 2014 and end in September 2015 with the formulation of the new international development framework.

Thematic Discussions

The workshop discussions focused on the following two sub-themes:

1) Economic, Environmental and Social Dimensions of the Sustainable Goals (SGDs)

Under this sub-theme it was noted that:

- i. The SDG's are meant to continue the unfinished business of the MDGs and to address emerging challenges. The SDGs are an important advance over the MDGs because they have been developed through extensive consultations among stakeholders across the globe (i.e. government, civil society, private sector, youth, women, academia etc.); they address a broader range of interests across the development spectrum; they are global in character and reach, but allow for national localization based on national realities, priorities, capabilities and levels of development; they include financing as a key component, which was a major missing element in the MDGs; and they are transformative because they are focusing the international system on sustainable development.

- ii. The SDGs are consistent with Uganda’s Vision 2040 and they address the three dimensions of sustainable development – i.e. economic, social and environmental. To that end, they are being incorporated into the second National Development Plan (NDP II) which is about to be finalized. In effect, Uganda is demonstrating leadership by being one of the first countries to ‘localize’ the SDGs by integrating them into her national planning processes.
- iii. Consultations on the Post 2015 development agenda will be finalized during the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly (i.e. from September 2014 to September 2015). Uganda will have the unique opportunity of presiding over this momentous process which will culminate in the establishment of a new international development agenda.
- iv. Going into global negotiations on the Post 2015 development agenda, Africa has already formulated a common position which emphasizes six pillars, namely: (i) Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth (ii) Science, technology and innovation (iii) People-centred development (iv) Environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management (v) Peace and security, and (vi) Finance and partnerships.

2) Effective Implementation at National Level

Under this sub-theme it was noted that:

- i. Effective implementation of the Post 2015 development agenda in Uganda will require careful planning, strengthening of institutions, enhancing accountability, and developing requisite human skills and capacities. It will also require forging strong partnerships at two levels: *locally* between government (central and local), the private sector, civil society and parliament; and *externally* between development partners and fellow African countries.
- ii. Financing the Post 2015 agenda will require mobilization of adequate financial resources local and globally through a mixture of innovative options. These include:
 - Broadening the tax base through elimination of administrative inefficiencies and drawing the informal sector into the formal economy
 - Smart borrowing of concessional and non-concessional loans
 - Blended financing that includes development banks and private for-profit institutions
 - Promoting an inclusive financial sector that encourages private savings
 - Issuing bonds nationally and globally to generate development support

Recommendations on the way forward

The above discussions generated the following recommendations:

1. The consultations in Uganda should be stepped up to generate broader national consensus on the Post 2015 development agenda and its implementation. An effective communication strategy should also be developed to ensure that the consultations percolate down to the local level.
2. Political will and leadership will be essential for effective implementation of the SDGs.
3. Effective integration of the SDGs into NDP II will require agreement on specific targets and indicators, as well as development of an effective monitoring and evaluation framework.
4. Implementation of the SDGs should be ‘localized’ all the way to local government level (i.e. sub-counties) as this is where service delivery takes place.
5. Parliamentarians should be effectively involved in the discussions because of their key role in legislation and appropriation of resources.
6. A change in the mindset of public servants will be of critical importance if the SDGs are to be realized. Significant emphasis should also be placed on strengthening institutions in order to enhance delivery on agreed commitments. Good policies and plans are of little value unless they are effectively implemented.
7. Gender issues should be given greater attention in the Post 2015 development agenda. There is need to address the underlying structural issues of power and access to resources, and also to take into account the needs of boys and men. Gender-budgeting, therefore, should be centre stage in the allocation of resources.
8. The concerns of the youth should be given adequate attention when integrating the SDGs into NDP II – especially job creation and employment, and reproductive health.
9. The private sector should play a key role in providing investment and employment, especially in areas that make a real difference for the population – including health, education, transport, energy, water and sanitation. There will be need, for purposes of broadening the tax base, to bring a broader range of informal economic activities into the formal sector.
10. While development partners will continue to provide support to enable Uganda achieve its development goals as defined in Vision 2040 and the NDP, development ‘partnerships’ should be expanded to include support from other countries – even African ones – that can share ideas, skills and lessons learned.

Brief Statements

[The following brief statements should be placed in boxes in the supplement]

"Uganda will be presiding over the UN General Assembly at a historical moment in time, when the UN will turn 70 in 2015. For the international community, this momentous year will see a transition of the MDGs and 3 major transformations; ushering in a universal sustainable development agenda seeking to eradicate poverty by 2030, securing a binding Climate Change agreement and unlocking the financial means to achieve these ambitions. All this will happen on Uganda's watch! This is a daunting task for People and Planet but also a great opportunity for this nation, and indeed Africa to leave a legacy ensuring a life of dignity for all. "

H.E. Amina Mohammed, UN Secretary General's Adviser on Post 2015 Development Planning

"The new agenda should be holistic, transformative, action-oriented, and universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capabilities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities. In the spirit of 'leaving no one behind' the agenda should focus on eradicating poverty and hunger, through creating sustained growth and employment".

Hon. Sam Kutesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and in-coming President of the 69th UN General Assembly

"The UN system in Uganda will continue to support the Government of Uganda with the localization of the Post 2015 Development Agenda through the process of formulating the second National Development Plan (NDPII), and ensuring that the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is aligned to the NDPII".

Ms. AhunnaEziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative.

List of Proposed Sustainable Development Goals to be attained by 2030 (To be put in a box)

1. End poverty everywhere
2. End hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Attain healthy lives for all
4. Provide quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all
5. Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere
6. Ensure availability and sustainable use of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure sustainable energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Promote sustainable infrastructure and industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and between countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and sustainable
12. Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Tackle climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and promote sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources
15. Protect and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, halt desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss
16. Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all, and effective and capable institutions
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and the global partnership for sustainable development