



2017 Mineral Wealth Conference  
**Special Remarks by Ms Rosa Malango**  
UN Resident Coordinator |  
UNDP Resident Representative

Thursday, 5 October 2017 | Kampala Serena Hotel

Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament;

Representatives from the European Union Delegation to Uganda;

Honourable Ministers Present;

Members of Parliament Present;

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development;

The Chairperson, Uganda Chamber of Mines & Petroleum;

Members of the Private Sector;

Civil Society Representatives;

Colleagues from the UN System;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be part of the 2017 Mineral Wealth Conference organised by the Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum. Congratulations on this 6<sup>th</sup> Conference. I would like to invite this conference's sponsors to adhere to the UNDP Gender Equality Seal. Promoting gender equity is key for sustainable development.

October is the UN awareness month

I would like to thank the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States for developing the vision for the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme and the European Union for supporting this global effort alongside UNDP. This programme gives us an opportunity to strengthen a very vital and viable sector for human development around the world.

The United Nations System in Uganda will continue to work closely with the Government of Uganda particularly the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development in supporting the Mining sector in Uganda.

The Conference theme, *“Minerals: Knocking on the door to cause economic transformation in Uganda”*, reflects the focus of our work and partnership with the people of Uganda to transform lives by sustainably using the natural resources this country has been blessed with. The mining sector has great potential to contribute to the economic transformation of Uganda and we are confident that this can become a reality through public private partnerships that empower and improve the quality of life of communities who live with these minerals, providing them decent jobs.

**Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The conference here today comes at a very critical moment in Uganda’s mining sector. A sector poised to be an “accelerator” for the achievement of Uganda’s Vision 2040 of “A transformed Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years.”

The achievement of Vision 2040 is catalyzed by the current National Development Plan (NDP II) that runs from the year 2015 – 2020. The anchor of this second National Development Plan is the strengthening of Uganda’s competitiveness for sustainable wealth creation, employment and inclusive growth. This is to be achieved through strengthening of the fundamentals – such as establishing and improving strategic infrastructure including transport in the form of roads, bridges, railways and energy as well as human capital development including apprenticeships and formal training; while harnessing the opportunities inherent in the high growth sectors with multiplier effects such as mining, agriculture and tourism. It is clear that Uganda’s

mining sector is crucial to the achievement of all objectives of the National Development Plan II.

Uganda has incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals in Chapter 3 of the National Development Plan II (NDP II) as part of the development context. In addition, indicators for the SDGs have been integrated into the NDP II results framework and are being used to generate indicators and targets for use at national and local levels.

This is a clear indication of the collaboration between the Government of Uganda and the United Nations System that also informed the formulation of the 2016 – 2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Uganda (UNDAF). The UNDAF is our partnership framework that guides our support to the achievement of Vision 2040. In particular, Strategic Intent 3 of our framework focuses on achieving Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development in the areas of Natural Resource Management and climate change resilience; Infrastructure, production and trade; Employment creation particularly for youth, women and persons with disabilities.

The 2030 Agenda highlights a shared commitment to people, planet and prosperity. Our Agenda for humanity is informed by indigenous values of global relevance. Ubuntu is about respect, dignity, stability and prosperity. Innovation and culture can be good for business.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Development Minerals are minerals and materials of significant local economic importance that are mined, processed, manufactured and consumed domestically. They include, industrial minerals, such as gypsum and talc, construction materials, such as sand and gravel, dimension stones, such as marble and granite, and semi-

precious stones, such as garnet and amethyst. They are used to construct houses, hospitals, bridges and roads, and are manufactured into a huge variety of products from plates, to glass, to toothpaste and paint. Furthermore, they are used as a soil amendment to improve agricultural yield and are crucial to the agricultural sector.

As such, they may not generate the same attention as precious metals or base metals. Their value lies in their potential to be minerals for local development, boosting the livelihoods of millions people, generating and supporting local employment with the ripple effect of catalyzing poverty eradication. I am delighted that this conference is raising the profile of this crucial mining sector. Sand and stone aggregates, marble in Karamoja and cement in Tororo and Kasese are a few examples.

With the growth of the infrastructure sector and rapid urbanisation that has been going on over the last two decades, demand for services and infrastructure will continue to increase. This growth represents employment opportunities for women, youths and special interest communities such as refugees hosted in Uganda.

The challenge remains for us to identify and position small scale stakeholders, starting with the artisanal miner, small or medium companies and community based associations, to be in a position to benefit from these opportunities.

Cyril Mugenyi, the Bushenyi District Natural Resources Officer recently trained under the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme stated that, “We need to begin at the grassroots level and work with great patience when dealing with miners. Majority are untrained, often holding a negative suspicion of any intervention.’ We will start the work to change their mindsets, provide them with the necessary sector support such as technical advice, access to information on markets and latest low-

tech, low-cost and environmentally friendly value addition techniques for targeted minerals. With these actions, we shall gradually win their confidence and elevate the sector to its rightful place – at the centre of local economic development programmes and strategies.” This testimony reflects the importance of our shared responsibility to help this sector transform.

## Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Extensive effort has been put into establishing partnerships and mobilizing resources to facilitate sustainable utilization of natural resources towards economic transformation. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a co-sponsor of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) alongside the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). We have also supported the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) adopted in 2008 at national level, where UNDP has been co-convener of the country level consultations and has supported multi-stakeholder dialogues.

This active engagement led to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States to invite us to partner in the implementation of the **ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme**. The ACP Framework of Action on the Development of the Mineral Resources Sector, is aligned with the tenets of the African Mining Vision. UNDP also has had a longstanding relationship with the European Union that’s borne of our comparative advantage through our country-level presence in more than 170 countries and territories, our diverse technical expertise and our ability to deliver transformative results alongside communities and nations around the world.

It is against this backdrop that the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) Group of States, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been implementing together the three-year (2016 – 2018 in Uganda) , 13.1 million Euro **ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme** aimed at building the capacity of key stakeholders to improve the profile and management of Development Minerals in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

The ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme complements UNDP’s ongoing global effort towards catalysing a resilient, inclusive and improved extractive sector that addresses the whole span of the industry—from low value to high value minerals. I believe this has been well demonstrated throughout this conference from the exhibition of products, recognition of best actors in the sector and panel discussions.

Five thousand micro, small and medium scale ‘Development Minerals’ operators will have access to more affordable finance as a result of a partnership between the African Guarantee Fund (AGF), the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme. AGF will make available US\$12 million in credit guarantee facilities through financial institutions in Cameroon, Guinea (Conakry), Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia to small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) working in the ‘Development Minerals’ sector. This financing is expected to boost the livelihoods of some 25,000 people and their dependents across some of Africa’s most impoverished communities.

**I conclude by sharing a few key messages:**

- Development Minerals are local materials for local development. They are crucial for generating employment along the mining value chain, improving livelihoods

and contributing to poverty reduction. Concerted, urgent and consistent effort is key to harness the potential of Development Minerals to drive inclusive and sustainable human development for future generations.

- It is crucial that the legal and regulatory framework is strengthened to provide rigorous sector oversight by supporting Local Governments to fulfil their mandate, conclude on-going Policy processes pertinent to mining and promote access to geological data on Development Minerals. This is key to encourage investment in the sector by domestic and international players
- Improved access to appropriate technology and financing mechanisms for artisanal, small and medium-sized enterprises is critical to raise productivity;
- Ensure that we recognise and provide for the unique factors that affect the equal participation of women and men in this sector and address them accordingly. I reiterate my call for business to adhere to UNDP Gender Equality Seal and congratulate the thirteen companies who have adopted the SEAL and the thirteen more who are getting ready to sign on.

**Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Investing and working in development minerals will also contribute to the achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically SDG 9 - resilient infrastructure & sustainable industrialization; SDG 8 – employment and decent work for all; SDG1 – ending poverty; and SDG 5 – gender



equality that represent the aspiration towards inclusive, transformative and sustainable human development.

The UN System in Uganda has invested in partnerships, expertise and resources to ensure that support is given towards employment creation for youth, women, and persons with disabilities; and for positive outcomes for infrastructure, production and trade development that respect the environment. We remain committed to working with the Government, communities and all other partners to ensure that these natural resources work for all people and rightfully deliver significant benefits for Uganda's sustainable, green and inclusive development.

It is my hope that next year the focus will be on showcasing the results of additional investments in this sector. In particular, I hope to see more women involved, increased market access and climate smart value addition.

Thank you.