



Remarks at African Ambassadors Group Meeting

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The Dean of the African Ambassadors Group

Your Excellency, Major General Frank Mugambage

High Commissioner of Rwanda;

Your Excellencies, Members of the Africa Group of Ambassadors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation to speak to this august gathering of Africa Group of Ambassadors on the work of the United Nations in Uganda.

United Nations in Uganda: Delivering as One

The United Nations in Uganda is comprised of 18 agencies, including funds and programmes, all of which implement the United Nations Development Assistance

Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020. The UNDAF focuses on upstream support and is strategic, forward looking and fully aligned to both the medium and long term National Development Plans (NDP II 2015/6-2019/20 and Vision 2040).

The UNDAF priority setting was guided by three long-term strategic results that will guide the design of successive NDPs and UNDAFs between now and 2040 and which clearly define transformative results in the areas of Governance, Human Capital Development and Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development.

The UNDAF Management Structure is comprised of Joint Steering Committee (JSC), which has two tiers at the policy level aligned to existing coordination arrangements in Government. The Policy Coordination Committee (PCC), Chaired by the Prime Minister, meets twice a year and provides the Permanent Secretaries with policy coordination and oversight. The Permanent Secretaries forum, called the Implementation Coordination Steering Committee (ICSC) meets four times a year and oversees policy harmonization and sector performance monitoring. Additionally, there are Technical Coordination Committees (TCC) aligned to the priority sectors in the National Development Plan and link to the 12 UNDAF Outcomes.

The United Nations in Uganda launched the UN Delivering as One (DaO) initiative in 2012. The aim of this initiative is to make the UN better coordinated, more efficient and effective in responding to the development needs of Uganda through One Leader, One Programme (UNDAF), Operating as One, Communicating as One and a Common Budget Framework.

The UN Resident Coordinator is assisted in this coordination role in the field by United Nations Area Coordinators (UNAC), in the areas where the UN has a strong presence on the ground. There are currently UNACs for Acholi Sub-region, Karamoja Sub-region and for South West Uganda. The UNACs are nominated from senior field officer/ sub office heads of different UN agencies.

The 2030 Agenda

Uganda has made substantial progress as an early starter in the Agenda 2030 processes. Some of the key highlights of Uganda's progress in this process are; (i) the mainstreaming of SDGs into Uganda's second National Development Plan (NDPII)-2015/16-2019/20 (ii) Alignment of Local Government Development Plans (LGDPs) to the NDPII and SDGs, (iii) Ongoing alignment of sectoral development plans with NDPII and SDGs and (iv) Continuous dialogue with stakeholders and advocacy at various levels. Particularly, the first two achievements are owed to significant support by UNDP to the National Planning Authority.

In May 2016, the Government of Uganda established a coordination framework to support SDG implementation, with support from the United Nations System in Uganda. The Framework is comprised of the SDGs Policy Coordination Committee headed by the Prime Minister and comprised of Cabinet Ministers; the SDGs Policy Implementation Committee headed by the Head of Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet and comprised of Permanent Secretaries; and the SDGs National Task Force comprised of the heads of five technical working groups (TWGs). The TWG responsible for Overall Coordination, Monitoring and

Evaluation, and Reporting is led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); the TWG responsible for Integration of SDGs in all national, sector and local government plans is led by National Planning Authority (NPA); the TWG responsible for resource mobilisation headed by Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MFPED); the TWG responsible for Data Collection is led by Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS); and the TWG responsible for Communication and Popularisation of the SDGs is led by the Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance. All the TWGs will have representation from Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments, development partners, private sector and civil society.

In effort to operationalize the coordination framework, the Government of Uganda, with financial and technical support from UNDP has drafted a multi-year costed Roadmap. This critical instrument prepared by multi-institutional team of experts including from Government, Private Sector, Civil Society and the UN Country Team, will be instrumental for resource mobilization and harmonization of efforts by state and non-state actors. The roadmap recognizes that while Uganda has made significant strides in terms of upstream advocacy, knowledge on the 2030 agenda has not cascaded to the grass-root which could potentially threaten the inclusiveness of the agenda. Cognizant of this shortfall, the roadmap has provided for translation of SDG messages into local languages as a pertinent step in closing this gap.

PRIORITY AREAS OF ACTION

Presidential initiative on Wetlands

As part of national efforts to ensure that humanitarian and development action are informed by environment protection, H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, has requested the United Nations to support Uganda's efforts to protect and restore its wetlands including in districts hosting refugees.

The Presidential Initiative on Wetland (PIoW) is an integrated multi sectoral initiative, moving beyond single-sector interventions to restore and increase the resilience of both ecosystems and livelihoods.

The PIoW is supported by the United Nations in Uganda and will work with wetlands, agricultural lands, forestlands and rangelands through interventions related to climate smart agriculture, forest and ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and rangeland management. This is national initiative starting with priority highly vulnerable populations in 20 districts of Eastern and South west Uganda and Lake Victoria riparian districts of Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja and Masaka more than half of whom are women, living in disaster prone and food insecure districts dependent on climate sensitive and marginal livelihoods. The Initiative has four components namely:

- a) Restoration and management of wetland hydrology and associated forests (\$100million)
- b) Improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland catchment (\$100 million)
- c) Reduced urban flooding and water pollution (240 million)

- d) Wetlands Management Integrated in Priority government Programmes (\$60million)

UN Programme on Peace and Development

Given Uganda's history, investing in sustaining peace for development has been a priority of the UNDP in Uganda. Since the war in the North, UNDP has supported recovery efforts and resilience building in the country. Structural challenges have placed Uganda's hard earned stability in a vulnerable position. To avoid deceleration of development and eventual reversal to a perilous path, UN has supported indigenous peacebuilding structures such as The Elders Forum, The Inter Religious Council of Uganda, the women Situation Room and the National Consultative Forum.

Recently, we have targeted the cultural institutions to be champions of peace and development in their regions. Starting with the Buganda Kingdom through the Nabbagereka Development Foundation, we are facilitating the promotion of cultural values as enablers for social cohesion and development. These institutions are critical in coordinating the dialogue efforts currently underway in the country.

Recent cross border activity has raised the scrutiny on the vulnerabilities facing the border communities, and the support mechanisms we can engage on to build their resilience. We are developing a programme to address peace and development challenges in the West Nile and Rwenzori regions. We are in consultations with Kenya to address the multiple challenges in the Karamoja cluster.

These responses are part of our commitment to the Great Lakes Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region - or PSC Framework. It is our hope that the countries of the region shall cooperate in finding durable solutions to peace and development problems facing us. The UN in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda have begun to better align our work to that of the PSC Framework.

ReHoPE

The UN in Uganda and the World Bank, in support of the Government's Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA), have developed the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) initiative, a multi-year joint framework for self-reliance and resilience programming for refugee and host communities. The framework emphasizes the need to develop innovative partnerships, especially in the area of promoting sustainable livelihoods. ReHOPE implementation started in 2016 through the UN Development Assistance Framework, and will expand to include a broader set of partners in the coming years. These efforts are set to inform the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and global blueprint for how countries can bring in development into the response for both refugees and communities. ReHOPE has been highlighted as a global best practice in multiple international fora, including the World Humanitarian Summit and the UN General Assembly, establishing Uganda as a front-runner for strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus.

We know that Uganda's borders are the beacon of hope for more than a million refugees who have fled conflict. Even with an unprecedented inflow of refugees, Uganda continues to apply an inclusive and progressive refugee protection model

that enables refugees to work and learn a long side Ugandan host communities. The Settlement Transformation Agenda (STA) and Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (REHoPE) initiative are now considered a best practice by the international community and will be the focus of the upcoming Solidarity Summit to be co-hosted by President Yoweri Museveni and UN Secretary-General António Guterres to mobilize resources for life saving action and for livelihoods.

DRR/Food Security

Uganda's disaster preparedness and management policy, supported by UNDP, UNICEF, FAO and WFP through the UNDAF, provides a global best practice to understanding, anticipating and reducing risks. Uganda's approach has shifted – by undertaking district-level hazard, risk and vulnerability profiling it now has an evidence-base to support risk-informed decision making. By better understanding climate and disaster risk, Uganda is protecting its investments and future-proofing its development.

The UN is providing continuous support to Government in monitoring and responding the food insecurity situation in several parts of the in country in 2016/2017, including through technical support to the Office of the Prime Minister and Government's nation-wide Food Security Assessment. UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF are also undertaking a Food Security & Nutrition Assessment in refugee-hosting districts. UNICEF, FAO and WFP provide comprehensive support to build resilience in the vulnerable Karamoja region through the Joint Karamoja Resilience Strategy.

The growing vulnerabilities faced in Uganda has led the UN Country Team and Pulse Lab Kampala to explore more the use of big data and real-time analytics for

humanitarian efforts, risk identification and for early warning about issues affecting development. Successful pilots using satellite, radio and other types of digital data mining are currently being developed with the UN Country Team.

Climate Change

UN Uganda provides strategic advice and support to Government of Uganda in providing sustainable livelihoods for communities, supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation, and promoting sustainable energy access. UN support specifically includes promoting innovation capacity to develop locally appropriate solutions for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystems, human settlements, chemicals, and environmentally harmful waste. In order to enhance long-term resilience of local communities, the UNCT also promotes investment in climate-smart agriculture and UNIDO is supporting building resilience through value addition in the banana value chain and supply of disease free planting materials.

Public Private Partnerships are key to mobilize investments in vocational training, equipment, access to secondary and tertiary education, as well as support for small emerging entrepreneurs in eco-friendly businesses.

I conclude by reiterating that the UN is here to support the Government and people of Uganda to achieve their national development goals, transformation into middle income country, outline in the National Development Plans and Vision 2040.

Thank You.

