



RC Talking Points for 4th National Partnership Forum (NPF) 8th February 2018

To complement statement by Ms. Jennie Barugh of DFID on behalf of LDPG

Uganda – UN partnership: a member since xxx Uganda has been a proactive, innovative and consistent partner for the United Nations. The National Vision 2040 foresees a socio-economic transformation informed by investments in peace and security as well as in human capital development and infrastructure. Our partnership led to the concurrent development of the National Development Plan and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2016-2020. Our Framework focuses on completing national efforts and providing knowledge options to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and attain aspirations in the National Vision. This makes 2018 a very important year.

The UNDAF Mid Term review will be held at the about the same time at the NDP II Mid Term Review. Given that the UNDAF supports the NDP, we commit to align the two processes as was the case during the formulation in 2014/2015. This is also an opportunity to accelerate the attainment of national development goals and the SDGs through strengthening of the National SDGs Coordination framework adopted last year.

This year at the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit, UN Secretary-General Antonio Gueterres stated that “African owned and African led solutions will be supported by the UN”. In this spirit I would like to reiterate our readiness to support the development and implementation of solutions as well as the identification of modalities to enhance learning from existing practices as Uganda pursues its development ambitions.

I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate Uganda for its leadership at the global level in the following areas:

1. Uganda is a co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
2. Uganda is the President of the High Level Committee on South South cooperation
3. Uganda’s national approach to protection of refugees and investment in host communities is a key example for the emerging Global Compact on Refugees (CRRF) to be adopted by the UN General Assembly
4. First country to launch a Presidential HIV/AIDs Fast Track initiative and to begin a Presidential Wetlands initiative

In addition, I would like to highlight key areas of achievements in 2017 and opportunities for 2018 from the SDGs perspective:

1. **SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, 2 Zero Hunger**: Launch of the HIV/AIDs Presidential Fast track, response to outbreaks,
 - **Revitalising HIV/AIDS prevention** - At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Uganda H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Executive Director of UNAIDS Michel Sidibé attended the launch of the Presidential Fast Track Initiative on ending AIDS in Uganda.
 - The five-point plan which was launched on the 6th June in Kampala outlines key subject areas in revitalising HIV prevention and closing the tap of new infections particularly among girls and young women; consolidating progress on elimination of mother to child transmission; accelerating implementation of "test and treat" which is expected to rapidly scale-up coverage of HIV treatment services in the country; ensuring domestic financing sustainability for the HIV response and finally strengthening institutional effectiveness for a multi-sectoral response.
 - The President noted with concern that the rise in new infections in the country stands at 227 per day. Of these, the adolescent population especially vulnerable girls, account for 50 new infections; that is 2 girls between the ages of 15-24 are infected every hour. He also stated that Uganda has firmly placed itself on course to achieving the 90-90-90 targets as well as ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 through the initiative.
 - **The first strategic review of SDG 2 on Ending Hunger was launched in 2017.** In terms of achievements, the review highlighted the reduction of under nutrition. Challenges identified include the depth of hunger in the country is still high, low agricultural productivity and limited use of sustainable land management practices. We look forward to strengthening critical institutions for food security, nutrition and health; building resilience of communities and households; reinforcing coherence between public and private financing in agriculture.
 - **Enhanced response and partnerships in response to outbreaks**, rapid early warning communications to the public, rapid deployment of technical experts and robust monitoring enabled Uganda to quickly manage serious outbreaks and limit impact on the wellbeing of the population and the economy. In 2017 this included responses to Malaria, cholera among others.

2. **SDGs 1 Ending Poverty, 4 Quality Education, 5 Gender Equality, 10 Reduced Inequalities**: Massive multimedia engagement to protect adolescent girls; Youth Conekt; PVE strategy; training of MPs; new companies adherence to Gender seal – still first country in Africa;

Youth bulge – while the high youth population is a development challenge, it is also an opportunity. There are currently multiple efforts to harness the demographic dividend in Uganda. This makes 2018 a year of opportunity to enhance synergies and improve coherence. Allow me to highlight a few key contributions from the UN family in this regard: we have adopted a UN system wide policy on Youth and Adolescents which will be implemented as of 2018. We are finalizing preparations with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to launch the **Uganda Graduate Volunteer Scheme Project**. This aims to enhance young graduates’ employability and bridge their transition to work. In addition, to strengthen youth employment and community participation in development we are also finalizing preparations for the formal launch of the **Songhai model for comprehensive rural development** in Uganda. We will sustain our initiatives to empower youth entrepreneurs, in particular young women. This includes continuing the **Youth to Youth Fund model**, the **UpAccelerate programme** and the **Youth Enterprise model**. Financial incentives, vocational training and awareness initiatives on the rights of youth will continue throughout 2018.

Closing the gender gap in sustainable development. I would like to thank Uganda for its leadership in becoming the first country in Africa to roll out the Gender Seal which commits private sector companies to promote and adhere to gender equality principles. In 2017 we reached over 30 companies in Uganda and shared our experience in South Africa during a south south cooperation event. In addition significant investments will continue to be made in training women MPs, empowering women associations such as the Ugandan Market Women Association and working at community level to ensure economic empowerment. Last week I visited several green charcoal projects where women are assuming greater roles.

Ending poverty and inequality is possible. Uganda has registered a modest rate of growth of late. We will continue to support Government interventions aimed at boosting economic growth by building upon the strengths of each region. In this spirit, in 2017 we supported the launch of the Green Growth Strategy for Uganda and began work on fostering green industrialization including support for regional industrial parks and the development of investment profiles for the refugee hosting districts. This would not only decrease regional inequality, but also boost overall growth. Refugee hosting districts provide us with an opportunity to innovate together by including the communities, private sector, development and humanitarian partners in support of the Government in delivering services and improving the quality of lives of all who live in these areas.

3. **SDGs 13 Climate action, 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production:**

- **Curbing Environmental Degradation and promoting restoration** – Uganda’s forests and wetlands are fast decreasing. UN Environment Programme and UNDP supported

- the preparation of the Uganda Wetland Atlas to provide policy makers and implementers with the information needed to support actions for wetland restoration and afforestation, and the formulation of the National Strategy for reducing deforestation and forest degradation. As a result, Uganda has been awarded USD 24 million by the Green Climate Fund for the initiatives intended to restore wetlands and reduce green gas house emissions.
- In 2018, we look forward to engaging local governments in these initiatives. Responsible consumption of natural resources, smart investments that are eco-friendly and conscious efforts to strengthen physical planning at village and district levels are key. These are also opportunities to promote inclusive and sustainable business. **Tourism** – is an important sector that should be promoted to address the issue of regional inequality and overall growth. It is imperative for Ugandans to be empowered to tell their own story and for women to emerge as leaders in public and private sector roles.

4. **SDGs 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Continued implementation of your exemplary policy on migration and asylum which led President Museveni and the UNSG to co-host the Solidarity Summit.

Investing in Peace and security for development. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of Uganda for its investments in peace and security. This is an opportunity to recognize those Ugandans who have lost their lives in peace missions.

Peace and security remains a key foundation for sustainable development and humanitarian operations. In 2017 we focused on work with security entities, engaging cultural leaders and reinforcing the national peace architecture. We remain committed to support investments in conflict transformation and early warning at community levels in addition to our ongoing work with the State and civil society on justice, rule of law and human rights.

Allow me to share a great example:

Obuntumulamu in Uganda: An Indigenous Cultural Values-Based Approach to Achieving the SDGs. In 2017, the Global South South Development Expo held in Turkey recognized this approach as an extraordinary example of how local communities through cultural leaders can become champions for peace and development. To date, the Acholi, Alur, Bunyoro, Busoga and Buganda identified 30 common values during a series of round table discussions. We supported the creation of this space for exchange and look forward to the consolidation of this exercise the production of knowledge products that highlight the common values between Uganda's heritage and the world.

In conclusion,

I would like to reiterate the commitment of the UN system to support the implementation of the National Vision and the SDGs in Uganda. We are also aware of the importance that Uganda attaches to panafricanist values. On this basis we will work with you to ensure that Agenda 2030 and 2063 are implemented in the country.

This year, African Heads of State and Government adopted as theme for 2018, **“Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation”**. I would like to recognize that this theme aligns with your commitment to ensure zero tolerance to corruption in Uganda. We remain committed to support your efforts in strengthening accountability systems at national and local level, promoting transparency and aligning Uganda’s efforts in this area with that of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation where Uganda serves as a co-chair.

In this regard, on behalf of the UN, I would like to applaud the Government’s swift response to the allegations related to the management of the refugee response. We look forward to the successful conclusion of ongoing investigations so that due process can be followed and corrective measures taken by us all.

Quote from “Keynote Address by H.E. President Museveni at the African Leadership Forum in 2015”

“Realising the importance of the human resources, leads to integration.....the human resource well utilized will lead to greater prosperity and sustainability. That is how China, Japan, India and even South Korea are much richer than Saudi Arabia.” This is a call by H.E. to invest in human capital development, it is my hope that this will be a priority in 2018.