



**KEY NOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

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**UGANDA**

**AT**

**A UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH-LEVEL DEBATE ON MEANS OF  
IMPLEMENTATION FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT**

**AGENDA**

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**President of the UN General Assembly**  
**Honourable Ministers,**  
**Excellencies,**  
**Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations**  
**Distinguished Participants,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I thank the President of the General Assembly for organizing this High-level meeting and for the opportunity to address you on the important theme " **Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda.**"

**Distinguished participants,**

In the proposed SDGs, we now have an emerging consensus, on what the main component of the post-2015 development agenda will be. This consensus focuses on a framework that is both holistic and realistic. Only then can we ensure sustainable development, in all its social, economic and environmental dimensions. As we move forward, **how do we ensure the implementation of the new development agenda, once adopted? What actions do we need to take collectively to scale up mobilization of the means for effective holistic implementation of the new development agenda spanning areas of finances, technology development and transfer, and human capacity building.**

As we formulate the Post-2015 international development agenda, we also need to reflect on the development agenda that has brought us this far. The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their 21 targets were unprecedented in their ability to rally the international community around a common development agenda. For example, my country Uganda has already achieved 10 MDGs targets (or is on track to do so) including the all-important first MDG – reduction of poverty.

But we also recognize that MDG implementation suffered significant structural and funding constraints.

The main lesson from this mixed MDG experience is that success of a development framework for SDGs must be accompanied by adequate implementation means, which range from financial resources, technology development and transfer, and capacity building. Secondly, there is need for policies and development cooperation to:

- **attract** innovative and enhanced international financing instruments and mechanisms, which recognize our various development status and capacities;
- **stimulate** domestic resource mobilization especially where the tax GP ratio is below 20%;
- **recognize** and attract the private sector's contribution towards sustainable development initiative; and
- **focus** on reducing the infrastructure and technology gaps worldwide.

All this while fostering peaceful co-existence and strong partnerships, in order to achieve sustainable development.

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished participants,**

There is urgent need to devise strategies that will promote stakeholding and internalization of the SDGs at all levels.

The key message is that we require:

- (a) rapid structural change to enable sustained and equitable economic growth;and
- (b) more importantly, enhanced mobilization of resources from all sources, domestic and external, public and private.

Given the ambition reflected in the proposed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is evident that the volume of resources required will be far greater than is possible from the traditional financing sources. For Africa, US\$95 billion per annum is requirement for infrastructure alone.

Today and in the on-going preparations for the Third Conference on Financing for Development, scheduled for July in Addis Ababa, Member States and stakeholders should put greater attention on identifying concrete measures and actions that need to be taken to scale-up mobilization of resources. The policy options contained in the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) constitute an important input.

To realise our sustainable development aspirations, increased domestic resources mobilization will be crucial. It will be essential to improve domestic revenue which in many developing countries is below 20% of GDP. At the same time, all countries should accelerate public finance management reforms, to ensure good governance practices that will lead to value for money spent in budget and not value of money for the available recurrent and development expenditure budgets.

In implementing SDGs, countries need to take advantage of the demographic dividends of the youths and women who constitute close to 70% of national populations in many countries. Strategies to enhance employment of women and the youth, as a major percentage of the work force, will not only raise taxable incomes, but will also help households to achieve individual SDGs, including in education and health.

At the global level, there is need for fulfillment of commitments on Official Development Assistance (ODA) and better global economic governance, including greater responsiveness by international financial institutions to the needs of developing countries. We also need to address the issue of illicit funds amounting close to US\$ 1 trillion globally, which could be channeled towards the public arena to fund implementation of SDGs and the supporting infrastructure.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me briefly share the strategies and measures that the Uganda Government is already establishing for implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, with key focus on structural transformation of the Uganda economy.

Structural economic changes are being driven by productivity improvements and a significant increase in infrastructure investments, targeting the strategic sectors of energy, oil, transport, water and ICT, to support value-addition in agriculture, oil and gas, minerals and tourism sectors.

To actualize this agenda, we have identified six operational strategies:

- i) **ensuring security** of person and property for all citizens;
- ii) **prioritizing the development of productive value chains;**
- iii) **increasing efficiency of public resource planning and management;**
- iv) **facilitating inclusive, productive and efficient development of urban centres;**
- v) **fast-tracking the East African Community regional integration process, to enhance regional market demand and reduce the cost of doing business;**  
and
- vi) **ensuring value for money spent and delivery of social services.**

Uganda will pursue financing options that focus on:

- I. Improving taxation efficiency and effectiveness**, which involves elimination of administrative inefficiencies and expansion of the tax base to capture the informal sector, to generate more domestic revenue.
- II. Cost effective foreign borrowing**, for viable income generating projects while maintaining our enviable debt sustainability.
- III. Blended financing** is the combining of low cost money e.g. ODA with higher cost finance to lower the overall financing cost of the total package.

- IV. International financial markets** will be used, where and when we have projects that are ready-to-go and have a good-cash flow profile, at an appropriate time and terms;
- V. Domestic savings**, which are transformed into investments, through the financial sector. To build on the gains we have registered in deepening our financial markets and increasing financial inclusion, we will integrate the informal savings mechanisms into formal financial sector. Uganda's savings to GDP ratio has risen from 4.7% in 2000 to the current 15%, and the domestically funded share of the national budget has increased from less than 50% to over 80% over the same period. These macro numbers have also resonated well at household level, where the share of the population living below the national poverty line has fallen from 1992 (56%) to below one out of every 5 people (19.7%).
- VI. ODA** will be utilized more effectively as a catalyst to attract more non ODA funding.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, beyond 2015, we will need resources surpassing what was required for the MDG framework. We will require greater investments in all sectors that span the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

At the national level, policy and financing measures to ensure that all citizens benefit from growth are urgent, as inequality appears to be widening. We need functional mechanisms that increase efficiency in the implementation of the planned interventions and improve overall Government effectiveness for sustainable development.

I wish to stress that Uganda attaches great importance to the formulation of a transformative and inclusive development agenda that is underpinned with adequate means of implementation. Together we will succeed.

I thank you for your attention.