



# UGANDA

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. DR RICHARD NDUHUURA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA TO THE UN**

**AT**

**9<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**New York,  
March 3-5, 2014**

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**Co-Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

I would like to thank the Co-Chairs for ably guiding the Working Group to this phase, and for preparing the proposed Focus Areas document.

My delegation aligns itself to the Statements delivered by the representatives of Bolivia, Guinea Bissau, and Benin on behalf of the G77 and China, the African Group and LDCs respectively.

I wish to underscore five points. First, the proposed focus areas in general reflect the thematic areas that were articulated during the stock-taking sessions. The document therefore provides a good basis, subject to addressing some gaps that will be identified in this session, for taking our work to next stage of actual identification, formulation and elaboration of proposed SGDs and targets. We need to be mindful, going forward, of the essence of time since we have only about five months in which to accomplish the remaining task.

Secondly, and as stressed in the Statement by the African Group, it is essential to include promotion of sustainable agricultural production and productivity as a focus area given its critical importance in the economies of many developing countries, and in ensuring food security and nutrition.

Thirdly, Uganda continues to support promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women as an important component in the achievement of sustainable development. While significant progress has been made with regard to MDG 3, there is still a lot of unfinished business that must be carried over into the SDGs framework to ensure women's full and effective participation in sustainable development through appropriate policies, programmes and decision-making at all levels.

We also stress the need to put more attention on empowerment of the youth especially through skills development and expanding employment opportunities. In addition, it is essential to focus on mainstreaming the special needs of older persons, people with disability, and other persons in vulnerable situations, into the SDGs framework.

Co-Chair,

Fourth, it is our strong conviction that the issues covered under Focus Area 19, including human rights, governance, and the rule of law should be considered in the context of development enablers. This is the consensus we reached, after lengthy negotiations, in the Rio+20 outcome document.

We stress this point because issues of good governance, the rule of law, and human rights are considered at national, regional and international levels. In this regard, there is need to respect national traditions, cultures and values.

Finally, the centrality of Means of Implementation cannot be overemphasized, given the lessons learned from the gaps in the MDGs framework. It is therefore essential to ensure that in addition to having a stand-alone goal, each SGD is accompanied by the required means of implementation. We also call for inclusion of a focus area on strengthening the global partnership for development, in view of the insufficient attention that has been given to MDG 8.

I thank you for your attention.