



UGANDA

Permanent Mission of Uganda
to the United Nations
New York

Tel: +1 (212) 949 – 0110
Fax: (212) 687 - 4517

STATEMENT

BY

DR. TOM OKIA OKURUT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY,

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Check Against delivery

**President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates**

I wish to congratulate the President of ECOSOC and together with the Bureau for organizing the 2019 HLPF. Uganda aligns its statement with the statements made by the State of Palestine on behalf of G77 and China, South Africa on behalf of the African Group, Malawi on behalf of the LDCs and that of Paraguay on behalf of LLDCs.

The theme of this year's HLPF ***“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”*** is pertinent to Uganda's efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Uganda integrated the SDGs into our 2nd NDP effective 2015. Through the annualized work plans, we have progressed to implement the SDGs under various sector investment plans.

President

On SDG 6, Uganda has registered progress towards the realization of SDG 4 on quality education. The school enrollment rose from 2.3 million children in 1997 to 8.7 million by 2016 following introduction of Universal Primary Education in 2015. Government has subsequently increased funding to the Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education by 11.6%. In addition, for tertiary education; a successful students loan scheme has been introduced targeting those vulnerable students.

Regarding SDG 8, Government is implementing development-oriented policies to support productive activities and decent work. In this regard, the Government policy on industrialization is being vigorously implemented and in the last one year industry grew at 6.2% per annum and this alone created employment of between 600,000 and 1.2 million direct employees. Besides, government has put in policies to facilitate skills enhancement and credit access by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSEMs). These efforts championed by the UIA is already paying dividends in term of increased direct employment of over 300,000 persons.

On SDG 10, the Cabinet approved the principles of the enactment of the National Health Insurance Scheme Bill to ensure access to quality health care for all Ugandans, irrespective of their age, economic, health and social status has been approved for immediate implementation. The Government of Uganda has continued to roll out the Social Assistance Grant for the Elderly to all elderly members of society to reduce their vulnerability.

In addition, the Government established the Youth Livelihood Fund, Women Capital Fund, as well as various SACCOs targeted towards reducing vulnerability of various segments of society such as women, the youths. Furthermore, Government is also implementing the Operation Wealth Creation Programme focusing on improving productivity of the agricultural sector which is employing over 72% of Uganda's total labour force. This intervention is coupled with other supportive programs such Water for Production, rural water and sanitation.

On SDG 13, on Climate Change, the Government has put in place systems and policies in place to drive the process namely: the National Climate Change Policy and its Costed Implementation Strategy 2015, the National Climate Change Bill 2019, the Climate Change Communication Strategy and National Mainstreaming Guidelines; the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement among others. Our Climate Action plans is squarely based **on nature based solutions**. Restoration of the wetlands, preserving the national forests, planting the new commercial forests, not cultivating along the Lake/ River banks are among these actions taken.

On SDG 16, Uganda has continued to strengthened the capacity of Justice systems through introduction of special courts such as for Human Rights, Anti-Corruption among others. We have supported regional peace initiatives in Congo, Somalia and South Sudan through logistics and other support to UN and these countries.

Regarding SDG 17 on partnerships, we have a framework for inclusivity of all actors in the SDG implementation agenda. The Youth are already fully