



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF GENDER LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Opening Remarks

On The Launch of the Generation Equality Forum
On July 1st, 2021.

BY

**Minister of State, Gender and Culture Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Labour and
Social Development.**

Your Excellency the Ambassador of France,
Your Excellences the Country Representatives of UN Agencies,
Honorable Members of Parliament,
Representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development,
Representatives of Religious, Traditional and Cultural Institutions
Representatives of Civil Society Organisations,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me begin by thanking you for choosing to join us at the national launch of the Generation Equality Forum; a multi-stakeholder global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women in partnership with the Governments of France and Mexico, in partnership with civil society and youth. The Generation Equality Forum provides an opportunity to generate multi-stakeholder alliances for gender equality and to commit to actions that will advance the gender equality agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Government of Uganda under the NRM has registered significant gains on the delivery of women's rights and gender equality during the last 25 years. Uganda has incorporated the principles and provisions of global and regional commitments on women's human rights in national legal and policy frameworks as well as setting up the institutional mechanisms to facilitate implementation across sectors.

The 1995 Constitution provides the overall legal framework to promote women's rights and gender equality and has informed several legal and policy developments the Government of Uganda has put in place that are key for the promotion of women's right and gender equality in particular the Domestic Violence Act 2010, the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2010) and the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act (2009), Public Finance Management Act (2015), Children (Amendment) Act 2016, Succession Bill (2019), Sexual Offences Bill (2019) among others.

Deliberate efforts have been taken to implement the legal and policy framework which have contributed to significant gains in education and training outcomes at all levels, participation and representation in governance and leadership, better health outcomes, employment and access to productive resources. According to the Global Gender Gap Report of 2020 by the World Economic Forum, Uganda ranks 65th out of 153 Countries with a score of 0.717. We can certainly do better towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

Therefore deliberate interventions to harness the existing opportunities to accelerate intergenerational positive transformation towards women's empowerment and gender equality are key. Uganda's Vision 2040 that aspires for a transformed society from peasant to modern and prosperous Country and the implementation of the Third National Development Plan 2020/21-2024/25 whose goal is towards "*Increased Household Incomes and Improved Quality of Life of Ugandans*" and associated Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs) present a great opportunity for accelerating gender equality and women's empowerment.

In regard to the Generation Equality, the Government of Uganda has made 2 commitment:

Commitment 1 is to promote Women's Economic Empowerment through multi-faceted programs that combine skilling, access to market information, innovative and time saving technologies, affordable credit and financing services including the establishment of the Women's Entrepreneurship Fund, and other productive resources to enable women entrepreneurs expand their businesses into medium and large-scale enterprises.

Our commitments under women's economic empowerment are:

- i. Commit UGX 32 billion per year towards the Uganda Women's Entrepreneurship Programme to able to benefit at least 1 million Women in Small Scale Businesses including skilling them in entrepreneurship.
- ii. Design and implement a National Women Economic Empowerment Programme to support Women in Business to grow their enterprises.

- iii. Work with 200 selected Private Sector Companies to enroll, participate in and comply with the Gender Equality Seal Certification.
- iv. Commit UGX 1.67 trillion for agro-industrialization in 2021/2022 financial year including implementing affirmative action of 40% to benefit Women Farmers.
- v. Support financial inclusion through cooperatives, SACCOs, Revolving Fund and UGX30,000,000 will be provided per parish,
- vi. Allocate UGX 94,500,000,000) for community mobilization and mindset change to take up Government Programmes especially Wealth Creation and Productivity.
- vii. The Uganda Land Fund to put aside 40% of its budget towards supporting women in agriculture to access funds to acquire titled land within their own right.

Commitment 2 is to Eliminate all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) as grounded in several laws and policies such as the Domestic Violence Act 2010, the prohibition of female genital Mutilation Act 2010, the Prevention of trafficking in persons 2009, Succession Amendment Act 2021, Employment Act 2006, Penal Code amendment Act 2007 and the Gender based violence Policy for Uganda. Our commitments towards elimination of GBV are:

- i. **Commit to full implementation of existing GBV laws and policies** by adopting GBV indicators in the Government Performance contracting framework to track duty-bearers' level of accountability on enforcement and implementation of GBV laws and policies by 2025.
- ii. Ensure that victims and survivors' rights are fully protected through formal and alternative Justice Systems and perpetrators are held accountable for their actions/ crimes by supporting the **Institutionalized Specialist Justice System and Structure for Management cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) against women and girls.**
- iii. Enhance the capacity of key Sectors/Ministries/Agencies (Justice Sector, Education Sector, Health Sector and Social Sector) on GBV case management including reporting, tracking, referral and response to cases of GBV including

mainstreaming GBV prevention and response in their Action Plans and digitalization of GBV case management.

- iv. Support the establishment of 8 regional GBV Shelters and Reception Centers.
- v. Support the implementation of the Gender Based Violence Policy and Action Plan 2016 including strengthening partnerships with Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, Religious and Traditional/Cultural Institutions and the Private Sector on prevention and response to Gender Based Violence.
- vi. Implement the Male Involvement Strategy on prevention and response to GBV as well as social norm change using SASA and COTLA
- vii. Commit to ratify and implement the ILO Convention 190 on eliminating Gender-Based Violence and Harassment in the world of work by 2026 in close partnership with the private sector.
- viii. Commit to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with Civil Society, Private sector and the affected communities to build stronger and resilient communities to promote and protect the full rights of women and girls. We will work to strengthen the Women's Movement in Uganda and provide spaces to influence government policies and processes.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we count on you to support the Government towards the realization of the above commitments.

Allow me to extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of France for hosting the Generation Equality Forum and UN Women for organizing this official launch of the Forum.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY