



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**Statement by**

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**Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development**

**At the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women  
(CSW68)**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Hon. Chairperson,  
Excellences,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to convey my appreciation to you Madam Chairperson, Members of the Bureau and all Delegations for the organizing the 68th Session of the CSW.

Uganda aligns itself with the Statement made by the African Union and the European Union.

Uganda appreciates this year's theme of ***“Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls by Addressing Poverty and Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective”***

Uganda's leadership at the political and technical levels embraced gender equality and empowerment of women and girls right from the time of promulgation of the National Constitution in 1995. The Constitution integrates key principles of equality and non-discrimination and women's rights particularly under Article 32 on affirmative action for marginalized groups and Article 33 on women's rights. The aspiration of Uganda is to transform the country from a predominantly low income to a competitive middle-income country by 2040.

### **Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment**

Uganda has made a number of strides in the delivery of gender equality and women's empowerment by addressing poverty through legislative, policy and programming.

Uganda is a signatory to several international and regional instruments on gender equality and women empowerment, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development- the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (UN CEDAW), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on The Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), The African Continental Free Trade Area and Agreement (ACFTA), the Gender Policy of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), East African Community Treaty and its Gender Policy and The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Gender Policy (COMESA, 2002).

The Uganda Gender Policy (2007) and its action plan provide strategic interventions to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls with a special focus on economic empowerment.

In this regard, Government of Uganda under the implementation of the Third National Development 2020/2021-2024/2025) has prioritized wealth creation; including human capital development, community mobilization and mindset change, private sector development as an engine of growth and agro-industrialisation among others.

In order to accelerate women's economic empowerment in the medium term, Uganda is implementing several targeted flagship programmes. These include the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Project (UWEP), the Youth Livelihood Programme, the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) for the Older Persons, the National Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities, the Generating Growth and Productivity Opportunities for Women Enterprises (GROW) Project and Parish Development Model (PDM) with 30% reserved for women.

### ***Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective***

GoU established the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in 1980s as the National Machinery to spearhead the

delivery of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls and all marginalized categories of the population (youth, PDWs, cultural/ethnic minorities, and older persons). Other institutions include the Equal Opportunities Commission, The Uganda Human Rights Commission, the National Planning Authority, the School of Women and Gender Studies, and the National Women Council among others. GoU through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development fully finances these institutions and programmes.

GoU in 2015 enacted the Public Finance and Management Act (PFMA) and adopted Gender and Equity Responsive Budgeting as a practice. All Ministries, Departments and Agencies are assessed on their level of compliance on an annual basis. In the FY 2022/23, the level of compliance for all MDAs on gender and equity responsiveness was at 67.6% compared to 65.75% in the FY 2021/22.

GoU continues to work closely with UN Agencies and several Development Partners which supplement domestic financing on the delivery of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls related initiatives. In the medium term, we will pay special attention on:

- i. Accelerating wealth creation especially women's economic empowerment including the operationalisation of the gender responsive public procurement as provided in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Act,
- ii. Development and implementation of gender sensitive fiscal policies,
- iii. Generation and utilisation of gender statistics to inform in policy development and programming,
- iv. Conducting value for money audits for gender and equity as part of government institutional audits by the Office of the Auditor General,

- v. Strengthening the capacity of the MGLSD and its Agencies to effectively coordinate GEWE interventions at all levels,
- vi. Strengthen partnerships with Non-State Actors especially the private sector in the delivery of GEWE, including undertaking the Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme (GES).

In conclusion, the GoU re-affirms its commitment to Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls by Addressing Poverty and Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective. The GoU recognizes the remaining challenges that require concerted efforts and partnerships to accelerate the attainment of the desired development goals and targets.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY