



# National Commitments for SDG Acceleration and Transformation

## Background

Since adoption of the SDGs, the Government has implemented an inclusive process to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is owned by the people, starting with national coordination arrangements. Institutional delivery on the SDGs is guided by a multi-stakeholder National SDG Coordination Framework that was established in 2016 under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister. Anchored within the mainstream government coordination arrangements, the framework defines and delegates leadership roles and responsibilities for different aspects of coordinating implementation of the SDGs through multistakeholder technical working groups.

In 2016, Government of Uganda developed a framework to guide the Coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its associated SDGs under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister. This coordination framework brings together all players both state and non-state actors including local government to deliver on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

A fully-fledged national SDG Secretariat was established in 2019 and plays a catalytic role in SDG coordination and fast-tracking programmes to achieve results through steering the coordination function and supports in overseeing and harmonizing the implementation of the SDG coordination framework, Roadmap, and implementation of SDGs in Uganda.

At the halfway point of SDG implementation, the Government of Uganda will put her focus on the following core areas to accelerate SDG implementation to cause transformation among its people and communities. These commitments have been developed through a consultative process of all key players and with the review of the current policy development frameworks.

### **Commitment #1: Accelerating Leave No One Behind Agenda through the inclusive Parish Development Model Implementation**

By 2030, the Government of Uganda is committed to creating wealth and jobs by moving households into the money economy. This will be achieved through the Parish Development Model (PDM) to accelerate socio-economic transformation. The PDM strategy works with both the State and Non-State Actors in a participatory manner to organize, harmonize, register feedback, and deliver public and Private Sector interventions at the lowest administrative unit in Uganda called the Parish to achieve the following objectives: **i) Household Food security ii) Job**

creation **iii**) Wealth Creation **iv**) Improved service delivery at the Parish level. These are being achieved through increased production, processing/ value-addition along the value-chain and marketing, economic infrastructure, community mobilization and improved service delivery at the Parish, for Uganda and the African people. In Uganda, we think it is criminal for anybody to continue arguing for the continued export of raw materials from Africa when there is 90% more value in that product that you are giving to outsiders, as we sacrifice our development including attaining the SDGs.

Using this approach, 39% households which are currently in the non-money economy (the majority of whom are in subsistence agriculture), will move into the money economy. This approach will organize and deliver Public and private sector interventions for wealth creation and employment generation, using the Parish as the economic unit for planning, budgeting, and service delivery. Therefore, each Parish in the Country (10,594 in total), will be the growth and service delivery units. The PDM will increase incomes, improve quality of life and eradicate poverty at household level through modernization of agriculture, value addition, industrialization, improved services delivery and using modern communication.

Therefore, the PDM strategy will continue to directly contribute to reducing the proportion of men, women and others from subsistence and poverty situations in all dimensions, across the rural, peri-urban, and urban areas in Uganda. As such, Government continues to invest in internet connectivity, innovative Information Communication and Technology (ICT) uptake including the Parish Development Management Information System (PDMIS) that is integrated with Financial Integration System (FIS) for broader and inclusive financial services, data capture to inform development decisions and increasing Information, Communication and Technology uptake.

## **Commitment #2: Accelerate inclusive actions for Trade financing and Climate-Smart investments.**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the current geopolitics have shifted the global financing landscape by exacerbating financing needs and challenges. While countries focus on financing relief efforts and rebuilding their economies, aid budget cuts and policy restrictions at multilateral agencies threaten the speed and flexibility of a coordinated response. All these suggest that Uganda, like other African countries, is facing massive development financing gaps in the crucial decade of action.

As such, the Government of Uganda and its development partners including private sector financial institutions will continue to explore a completely new approach towards financing Uganda's sustainable development.

For example, the Government of Uganda is fast tracking the implementation of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) as a means of mobilizing resources nationally and globally to support sustainable development. As such, (MFPED) Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development revisited the Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy and associated policies to take into consideration emerging realities like pandemics and effects of geopolitics.

Additionally, Uganda is already developing a framework to operationalize a carbon market mechanism and to aid the mobilization of international financing to implement the country's commitment to climate change (as evidenced in the Nationally Determined Contributions) and to drive low-carbon investments for the benefit of people and the planet. National capacities will continue to be strengthened to take advantage of the provisions of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and drive significant inflow of international private financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation actions in the country. To enhance these efforts, Uganda commits to effectively implement the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation and resource mobilization plan, which provides a guiding framework for the country to implement and mobilize resources for climate action.

Developing new ways of financing clean energy will be critical to ensure that everyone (including Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Minority Groups, the elderly, rural areas, women and youth among others) in Uganda can have access to affordable, reliable energy and the opportunities it brings. In this regard, Uganda is committed to foster the development of inclusive and innovative financial aggregation structures and models that can help increase the availability and reduce the cost of financing for low-carbon energy. This will be to structure and deploy inclusive innovative business models and financial mechanisms to accelerate energy access and the clean energy transition for all.

Under this commitment area, Uganda will also pursue a multi-pronged approach. This includes boosting the internal market in Uganda through increased purchasing power as all homesteads join the money economy; supporting the expansion of the regional Market in East Africa and promoting the fast tracking of the African market through the African Common Free Trade Area as well as global markets through taking advantage of the trade access agreements like African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the Chinese preferential access market, the European Union (EU), External Balance Assessment (EBA) and also access to other markets on the merit of the quality and pricing of our products.

Uganda will continue to deal with the issue of costs of manufacturing through targeting the cost-pushers which include the cost of money (interest rates); the cost of transport and the cost of electricity. To increase access to financing, the Uganda Development Bank is being funded to provide low-interest loans for manufacturing, agriculture and service industry (tourism and

medical services). Therefore, Uganda is committed to increase its trade portfolio and unlock new potentials by exploiting all its competitive advantages.

**Commitment #3: Accelerate inclusive actions to leverage the advantages of Science, Technology and Innovation.** Uganda's development aspirations require that its national Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) plans and programmes make an effective contribution to its social and economic development. Strengthening national innovation performance is required to improve the competitiveness of Ugandan firms and industries in the global economy. The Science technology and innovation policy promotes active participation of all women and men, youth, children, the elderly and other disadvantaged or special needs groups in science and technology development. Within the broader inclusive STI ecosystem, the ICTs are a major component of STI processes and play a key role in creating business opportunities, supporting the modernization of the economic system, reducing poverty, and increasing social and economic inclusion. Therefore, well-developed inclusive policy support at national and sub-national levels is critical for the functioning of the STI system.

Cognizant of the crucial role of STI, Uganda has recently launched the Digital Transformation Roadmap (DTR) 2023-2027. The roadmap sets a strong foundation upon which the country's Digital Transformation will strengthen and accelerate the engagement and mobilization of the public and private stakeholders with digital innovation and support them to scale up. In addition to the DTR, Uganda has also developed a Big Data Strategy (BDS) to harness big data for socio-economic transformation. The strategy offers a road map for implementing important measures that will promote the use of data across several sectors and programmes, including business, agriculture, education, and health. Efforts will be made to produce disaggregated data that will be used to make wise judgments to support inclusive allocation of resources, and further attainment of SDGs but also accelerate the blue economy aspirations.

**Commitment #4: Accelerating inclusive economic and social development through climate change adaptation and mitigation.**

Uganda is a landlocked nation with substantial natural resources, including fertile soils, regular rainfall, and sizeable mineral deposits of copper, cobalt, gold and other minerals. Over 80 percent of the population is rural and depends on rain-fed agriculture, which is vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. The climate of Uganda is a widely available natural resource that directly impacts on other crucial natural resources such as water, forests, agriculture, ecotourism and wildlife. With the increased frequency of droughts and floods, which are extreme climate events, the threat to the national natural resource base is more evident with potentially negative impacts on social and economic development.

The threat of climate change affects all sectors of the economy, and its impacts goes beyond national borders. The economy of Uganda is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its impacts on key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, water resources, forestry, energy, health, infrastructure, and settlements.

Recently, Uganda developed a Green Growth Development Strategy (2017/18–2030/31) as part of its efforts to build climate resilience. This Green Growth Development Strategy underscores the need for Uganda to reconsider its growth model to deliver inclusive economic and social outcomes while protecting the environment.

Uganda therefore recognizes that policies for adaptation to climate change are very pertinent for the country especially for the rural communities due to their inherent economic fragility. As the country moves toward attaining green growth, the Government commits to growth that is characterized by inclusive low emissions, economic growth process that emphasizes effective and efficient use of natural, human, and physical capital while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide for present and future generations.

Uganda will therefore continue to work towards eliminating the key challenges to green growth that stem from limited awareness of the important role of other stakeholders, such as private sector firms, industries, civil society, academia and educational institutions. As such, the Government will prioritize sectors and technologies that will have the largest impact on moving towards the SDGs and meeting its Nationally Determined Contributions, as defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In the latter case, Uganda undertakes a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22 percent by 2030, by implementing inclusive mitigation and adaptation measures and technologies.

**Commitment #5: Accelerate Efforts to harness the full potential of data to improve the lives of all Ugandans.**

Use of evidence has been a long-standing practice by the Government of Uganda. Public policies, national development plans and decision-making have all been informed by official statistics. The availability of quality statistics has, therefore, been identified as one of the success factors of development agendas. Uganda also recognizes that our daily lives are influenced by data and it permeates the economic and social landscape of the whole country. Access to new data sources and shifts in technology are influencing how we structure the collection of data at the country level to improve the wellbeing of Ugandans.

As such, the Government of Uganda is committed to continue expanding the number of SDG indicators that have data points from the current 121 to 201 by 2030 and further disaggregating SDG data by gender, age, disability, location among other key parameters. As part of the acceleration efforts in the SDG implementation process, Uganda has developed an action plan to

produce more Tier I and II SDG indicators and completed the integration of the 201 national SDG indicators into the National Standard Indicator Framework.

However, we note that addressing the pitfalls in data is critical to harnessing the full potential of data to improve lives. A three-pronged approach will be used in the process of building a resilient data culture which will include, promoting a culture of data sharing and use by improving access to non-traditional data sources across government and its partners, reducing duplication of data collection efforts by supporting multisectoral engagements on data processes, and strengthening cross-government data flows. Uganda will continue to invest in public officials' acquisition of the necessary skills to use data critically and effectively at leadership and technical levels as well as promote data and information literacy in the population at large by investing in education systems, high quality communications, and information intermediaries. All these efforts will go a long way in promoting data resilience and fast tracking the country's effort towards the SDG 2030 targets.

**Commitment #6: Accelerate strengthening SDG coordination and service delivery mechanisms.**

The Government of Uganda recognizes that achievement and delivery on SDGs requires strong cohesive coordination and partnership mechanisms. The Government will continue to engage both the political and technical arms of Government as well as all non-state actors on the delivery of SDGs. Integration and alignment of national development framework with the 2030 Agenda will be core in the delivery of development and economic interventions.

The Government will further resource implementation and functionalization of the of the national SDG Coordination to ensure coherent implementation of SDGs across all the twenty national development plan programs across ministries departments and agencies and local Governments. The SDG Secretariat will also be supported and strengthened to ably coordinate the implementation architecture of the SDGs.

The Government of Uganda will strengthen partnership mechanisms through the National Partnership Dialogue Framework as a way of domesticating the partnership principles espoused in the Busan Partnership Agreement through the National Partnership Policy. This will help in maximizing the effectiveness of all forms of cooperation for development for the shared benefit of people, planet, prosperity, and peace, by putting into practice four principles.

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