

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ON THE POLICY PERSPECTIVE OF GENDER EQUALITY IN UGANDA

AT THE HIGH LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING ON GENDER STATISTICS

THURSDAY 31ST MARCH 2016
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Executive Directors 1995.

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to have the opportunity to address this high level forum of Permanent Secretaries and Executive Directors on gender equality as a fundamental aspect of development globally as well as within the national context.

Pursuing gender equality as a goal of equal rights and opportunity for men and women, boys and girls to enjoy the same status and realize their potential is both a human rights as well as an economic concern. In this respect, Government of Uganda has put gender equality and women's empowerment high on its national agenda and the pursuit to achieve this goal is firmly rooted in the condusive policy environment that promotes social and economic transformation of communities.

The overall mandate for gender equality is derived from the Constitution which provides for equality of men and women and calls for affirmative action for marginalized groups in society. The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex and provides for protection, and promotion of the rights, interest and wellbeing of

women, the family, children, Persons with Disability (PWDs) and other disadvantaged groups.

The Uganda Gender Policy 2007 provides the overall framework for addressing gender inequalities within the context of national development. The policy has set the basis for institutionalizing gender mainstreaming in the planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of programmes. The policy serves as a guide for the integration of gender concerns across the different sectors of national development.

Within the Social Development Sector, all the sub-sector policies have articulated attention to gender issues and gender equality is a guiding principle for the implementation of these policies. The policies include the Uganda National Employment Policy 2011, the Uganda National Culture Policy 2006, the National Policy on Disability 2006, the National Orphans and other Vulnerable Children Policy 2004, the National Equal Opportunities Policy 2006, the National Child Labour Policy 2007, the National Youth Policy 2001, the National HIV/Aids and the World of Work Policy 2007 and the National Community Development Policy of Uganda 2015. The Ministry is in the process of submitting to Cabinet, the National Policy on Elimination of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The Uganda Vision 2040 prescribes gender equality and women's empowerment and this has been operationalized through

implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) I 2010/11-2014/15 and the current NDP II. A strategic entry point for national level gender responsive policy has been made to ensure that the National Development Plan identifies gender inequality as one of the binding constraints to national development. This analysis enabled the prioritization of actions to address gender inequalities with significant gains in educational attainment, access to safe water and sanitation, reproductive health, agricultural productivity and employment.

The focus for gender mainstreaming will be on the priority areas of NDP11 which are; Infrastructure, Agriculture, Tourism, Human Capital Development and Mineral, Oil and Gas development to ensure that women fully participate and benefit from the programmes within these Sectors.

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We commend the various Sectors and MDAs that have been proactive in elaborating sector specific gender policies and strategies to guide the integration of gender concerns in their respective programmes. The Gender in Education Sector Policy, the Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender in Human Resource Management, the Water and Sanitation Sector Gender Strategy, the Judiciary Gender Policy and the proposed institutional Gender policies for the MFPED and NPA are some of the key policy frameworks that give impetus to gender.

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Of particular significance for gender responsive policy reforms is the newly enacted Public Finance Management Act 2015 (PFMA) that requires all MDAs to present a certificate of gender and equity compliance before Parliament approves the respective budgets.

As with the MDGs, Government has aligned its development framework to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focus on gender equality and women's empowerment as Goal 5 which should be achieved as a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Our current policy focus, in line with the NRM Manifesto is directed at strengthening the women's economic empowerment by giving them access to affordable credit, raising the value of their products through improved technology and providing marketing and business skills training for entrepreneurship development. The Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) has been allocated 234 billion over the next 5 years to reach out to women throughout the Country as support to group enterprises.

Therefore, the importance of gender statistics as a mechanism for the providing evidence for policy and planning as well as monitoring the implementation of government policy commitments is significant.

There is therefore need to enhance the availability of and access to data and statistics disaggregated by age, gender, disability and

geographical location. The initiative we are here to discuss today is therefore of paramount significance because als resid he fuhal * wall context Ladies and Gentlemen, Uganda is steadily moving towards middle income status and with economic growth at 5.1% per annum, investment in infrastructure, modernizing agriculture, infrastructure and industry is on the rise. Overall it is clear that the policy environment for promoting gender equality in Uganda is condusive and our focus is to translate the policy objectives into action and action into positive outcomes for all. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development is therefore pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate with all MDAs to ensure gender responsive development for our Country and looks forward to the endorsement of the set of gender indicators that will facilitate the monitoring of progress towards national development and global commitments.

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