

**High Level Political Forum 2023**

**SDG 6 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Clean water and sanitation**

**10:00 – 13:00 EDT, 11 July 2023, Conference Room 4**

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**Ministerial Respondent**

**Your Excellencies, President, and Vice President of ECOSOC,  
Your Excellencies, Heads of delegation,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I wish to convey my appreciation to the organizers of this session, for inviting me to provide some responses on behalf of the Government of Uganda. The achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG6 remains off track despite the fact that water and sanitation are critical in employment and wealth creation, enhancement of competitiveness, and in fostering socio-economic transformation.

The progress in achievement of SDG6 and other SDGs in Uganda has been affected by limitations in the means of implementation and several challenges that include flooding, rising water levels, COVID-19 Pandemic, Ebola, refugee influx and rising commodity costs.

Sustainable financing of water and sanitation services remains one of the biggest challenges, which Uganda, and other developing countries continue to face in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Uganda requires USD1.7 billion annually to implement water and related programs but only USD 0.4 Billion has been mobilized constituting only 25% of the required funds. There is therefore a need to continue exploring innovative funding sources and options since the traditional sources are inadequate.

Despite the above challenges, several actions are being taken by the Government of Uganda with support of various partners and stakeholders at all levels to accelerate progress in achievement of SDG6 namely:

- **Provision of water and sanitation services:** Provision of water and sanitation services for communities, schools and health care facilities is being **scaled up through innovative strategies** such as solar pumped systems, bulk water transfer, one village one water sources strategy, water harvesting etc;
- **Monitoring and reporting on SDG6:** In an effort to strengthen SDG6 monitoring, reporting and data dissemination systems, SDG 6 has been **integrated in the National Development Plan and institutionalized in relevant institutions** through the creation of indicator specific task teams that report on them annually through the Annual Sector Performance Report;
- **Capacity development:** Investment in the workforce to attract, train and retain workers, especially women and youth is being done

through innovative ways such as **applied training courses, utilizing experienced retired professionals, mentorship program for early and mid-career men and women, the student and graduate internship program, monthly webinar series, dialogues, and applied research** among others through the recently established Water Resources Institute. Uganda has also developed **an SDG6 training manual** to ensure that we have sufficient human resources to fully follow up on the implementation of SDG 6 and other water related goals;

- **Information System:** A Water Information System has been established to **inform and guide effective water resources planning, development, and management** and also as a way of contributing to the implementation of the Game Changer related to the Global Water Information System;
- **Maximize synergies between SDG6 and other SDGs:** Catchment based Integrated Water Resources Management approach is being implemented to **promote cross-sectoral and integrated approach** to sustainable development; ensure **a nexus** between water, energy, food, ecosystem; ensure **sustainable and risk- informed** water resources management; promoted **water conservation and improve water security** through nature-based solutions; and enhance infrastructure, ecosystem and community **resilience, and early warning systems.**
- **Partnerships:** Partnerships with all the relevant stakeholders have been established at national, regional, and international levels through existing frameworks such as the National Development Plan and Catchment based Integrated Water Resources

Management approach. Cross- sectoral, international, and transboundary partnerships have been **key in leveraging available institutional and human resources and capacities, fostering exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices, and mobilization of the required resources.**

### **Lessons learnt**

- **Acceleration of achievement of SDG6 requires holistic actions** that include, building human and institutional capacity, strengthening transboundary and cross- sectoral coordination and collaboration through existing governance arrangements, investing in science based water resources assessment and knowledge generation, integrating management information systems, and mobilizing innovative financing.
- **Strong and strategic partnerships** with all the relevant stakeholders at national, regional, and international levels are needed for scaling up achievement of SDG6 and other SDGs.
- **Priority should be given to monitoring and reporting** on all SDG6 targets and indicators especially SDG6.3, 6.4 and 6.6 through building institutional and human capacity and provision of financial resources among others.

### **Recommendations**

1. A holistic **integrated approach to planning and implementation**, following a basin or a catchment, should be adopted to strengthen inter- linkages between SDG6 and the various other water-related SDGs in order to speed up the achievement of 2030 Agenda.

2. There is need to build **human and institutional capacity to mobilize resources that are more domestic, and develop and run bankable projects** from infrastructure development to water resources management projects that sustain water for life and economic development.
3. There is need to **harness the potentials of creating more jobs, and businesses** including through business incubation and innovation in the water sector.
4. There is need to explore **innovative ways of building human capacity** through for example use of experienced professionals who are retirees, mentorship program for early and mid-career professionals, the student and graduate internship programs, applied training courses among others.

I thank you.