



UGANDA

Permanent Mission of Uganda
to the United Nations
New York

Tel: +1 (212) 949 – 0110
Fax: (212) 687 - 4517

**RESPONSE BY
UGANDA GOVERNMENT
TO THE QUESTIONS FROM MAJOR
GROUPS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
AT THE PRESENTATION OF
UGANDA’S SECOND VOLUNTARY
NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT DURING THE
2020 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF ECOSOC**

AUGUST 17, 2020

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**MGOS RESPONSE AND QUESTIONS FROM THE CSOs IN UGANDA TO
THE VNR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA**

Question	Answer
<p>What is the plan of the government to increase community participation, transparency and accountability in public programs aimed at sustainable development? Vulnerable groups, indigenous people and both rural and urban communities should be able to participate in the planned agro industrial approaches</p>	<p>The Government of Uganda recognizes that citizens’ self-articulated needs should be at the center of sustainable development policies, programs and accountability and that they should enjoy dignified lives through active participation in economic, social, cultural, and political spheres. To achieve equity, marginalized groups such as women, older persons, young people, persons with disability and minority ethnic groups must be involved when decisions are made about their needs and their involvement must be visible. In addition to such involvement, the Government has put in place mechanisms through which to meet it’s own responsibilities in promoting and protecting the rights of most vulnerable persons. These structures, policies, laws, programs and plans include the following:</p> <p>WOMEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution under Article 33 specifically provides for the right of women in Uganda. Article 32(2) of the Constitution provides that laws, cultures, customs and traditions which are against the dignity, welfare or interest of women or any other marginalized group are prohibited. • Other than the Constitution, a number of national laws have been enacted to protect women such as the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010, Domestic Violence Act 2010, Anti-trafficking in Person Act (2009). ICC Act criminalizes sexual exploitation of women during conflict and post conflict situations. These are some of the laws that provide safeguard and create accountability for women’s rights. • In addition to the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission was established to deal with issues of discrimination. <p>OLDER PERSONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Governments Act (Cap 243). Section 10(1) (f) provides for two older persons, a male and female, elected by Structures of the Council to represent them in the local governments’ councils.

- Through the **Expanding Social Protection Programme**, the Senior Citizens receive a monthly cash transfer of UGX 25,000 to older persons aged 65 years and above.

YOUNG PERSONS

Some of these initiatives for young people include

- The Youth Livelihood Program (YLP),
- Youth Venture Capital Fund (YVCF),
- Skilling Uganda,
- Green Jobs and Fair Labour Markets,
- Youth Entrepreneurship Facility, Pakasa and Young Achievers' Awards among others, all of which were designed to address youth unemployment.

INDIGENOUS PERSONS

- The Constitution of Uganda lays out some groundwork for the protection of ethnic minorities/ indigenous groups. National Objectives III and VI in the Constitution of Uganda, 1995 **prescribe a culture of cooperation and tolerance for the various customs and traditions resident** in the country as well as the gender balance and fair representation of marginalized groups on all constitutional and other bodies.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- With regard to the legal and institutional framework, Uganda ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2008; it has a Persons with Disabilities Act (2006) and a National Policy on Disability in Uganda (2006). The country also has a National Council for Disability (NCD) which is mandated to monitor and report on the state of disability in the country.

REFUGEES

- With 1.42 million refugees, Uganda has the largest refugee population in Africa and the third biggest in the world. The country's favorable legal and policy environment for refugees includes freedom of movement, the right to work, the right to documentation, and access to government services on a par with

	<p>nationals. With refugees making up 3 percent of the population, the SDGs cannot be achieved without actively integrating refugees in the development process. In March 2017, the Government launched the Comprehensive Refugee Response (CRRF). This Government-led multi-stakeholder approach aims at providing comprehensive support for refugee and host communities alike and is contributing to the attainment of the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the introduction of the CRRF, in September 2018 Uganda launched its Education Response Plan (ERP), followed in January 2019 by the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan, and in March 2020 by the Water and Environment Sector Response Plan. Together these are advancing progress towards many SDGs in a comprehensive and sustainable manner.
<p>What is the plan of the government in putting into action the pledge of leaving no one behind by fully implementing human rights obligations including the recognition and protection of the right to land, territories and resources of different social groups often left behind? Implementation of Gender Strategy for National Land Policy Implementation, and adopting National Eviction guidelines are some examples of concrete steps to leave no one behind. National and regional plans and priorities should focus on economic growth and integrate environment protection plans and strengthen democracy and human rights so as to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uganda has a Constitution coupled with several national laws and policies to promote human rights. Some of these include the human rights enforcement Act, the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act among others. • The country has also established specific institutions to ensure accountability as well as the respect, protection and promotion of human rights in the country. Some of these institutions include: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Courts of Law - The Judiciary plays a crucial role in ensuring that the protection of human rights as provided by the Constitution of Uganda and the Human Rights Enforcement Act is implemented effectively. In adjudicating human rights cases, judicial officers are required to apply Constitutional provisions as well as regional and international human rights instruments ratified by Uganda to protect human rights. b) The Uganda Human Rights Commission is a National Human Rights Institution mandated to ensure the respect, protection and promotion of human rights in Uganda. The Commission not only monitors the human rights situation of the country, but also receives and investigates complaints of human rights violations. Redress is also offered to victims through the UHRC human rights tribunal. c) The Equal Opportunities Commission is a constitutional body mandated to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of persons on the ground of sex, age,

attain sustainable development

race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, health status, social or economic standing, political opinion or disability, and take affirmative action in favor of groups marginalized on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them.