UNCT, Uganda President discuss bottlenecks to Sustainable Development

By Monica Aturinda, UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO)

On 4 July 2019, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Uganda led by the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango met the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. General (Rtd.) Yoweri K. Museveni, at Mbale State Lodge. The President and the UNCT discussed an array of issues including the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how to resolve the strategic bottlenecks that still impede Africa’s transformation.

The meeting, the first of its kind for the UNCT and Head of State in Uganda was an important milestone to discuss strategic partnership between the UN and the Government, within the scope of the current UN Reform dispensation. The gist of the reforms approved by the UN General Assembly in Resolution A/RES/72/279 of 31 May 2018 is to reposition the United Nations to support Member States to deliver on the 2030 Agenda using global perspectives informed by local context.

President Museveni requested the UN Country Team to pay attention some key issues including; the needs of the youth and women, the role of new technologies in the economy,
as well as the need for society to evolve while preserving positive core values.

The meeting with the President subsequently informed the July 5, 2019 deliberations of the UN Country Team at their annual retreat held at Lake Victoria Serena Resort at Kigo in Entebbe with a theme” UN Evidence-based Leadership for the SDGs.” which took place on 5 July 2019. It was attended by partners from the State, civil society, private sector, academia and diplomatic missions.

The retreat assessed the UN System in Uganda’s collective progress, identified opportunities and challenges and reviewed partnerships amongst UN agencies. The UNCT also agreed on modalities to ensure the UN remains fit for purpose in the country.

Key outcomes of the retreat included; consensus to focus on addressing the strategic bottlenecks to transformation identified outlined by the President during the formulation of the UN Cooperation Framework (2021 -2025) with the Government and using SDGs to ensure a better alignment and coherence among and between all partners in order to ‘leave no one behind.’ They also agreed to work with partners guided by the SDGs to address key issues including: accountability, gender equality and women’s empowerment, environment and human capital development.

Group photo of the UN country Team with partners from the State, civil society, private sector, academia and diplomatic missions at the opening of the Annual UNCT Retreat
“We identified the private sector as a key partner we need to collaborate with better to attain the SDGs in Uganda. The team also committed to focus on supporting the Government in strengthening delivery mechanisms at local government and community level,” said Ms Rosa Malango UN Resident Coordinator at the Retreat in Entebbe.

The Sustainable Development Goal Number 17 calls for global partnerships for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda that seeks to reduce inequality, end poverty, protect the environment and promote justice and peace.