PRESS RELEASE

Government and UN System in Uganda complete Joint Review to Accelerate Development


The meeting was chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda and attended by Cabinet Ministers, UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango, Heads of UN Agencies in Uganda working on Humanitarian and Development issues.

The meeting held at the Conference Hall at the Office of the President in Kampala focused on jointly reviewing the findings and recommendations of the UNDAF Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) and agreeing on actions on the way forward.

The Prime Minister noted that the meeting provided an opportunity to assess the engagement of Government and the UN, consolidate gains and jointly plan for the next National Development Plan (NDP) and UNDAF to lead to the attainment of the national vision of a transformed and modern Uganda.

The UN Resident Coordinator reiterated the importance of the strategic meeting as a safe space for both Government and the UN to assess progress and hold each other accountable on their joint efforts to improve the lives of the people of Uganda.

The key findings of the UNDAF MTE were that Uganda had made progress in most areas but was lagging behind in others such as natural resource management and climate change resilience due to high population growth rate, deforestation, and wetland degradation. The MTE found the that UNDAF was aligned to NDP II and Vision 2040. The theory of change was found still relevant and the UN System had used the UNDAF in flexible manner to respond to the changed context since the UNDAF was formulated in 2015, including massive influx of 1.1 million refugees from the South Sudan, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the reform of the UN Development System. However, coordination with Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies needed to be strengthened.
Hon. Mary Karooro Okurut, Minister for General Duties and responsible for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) called for ensuring that all interventions are aligned to the achievement of SDGs.

The meeting focused on key issues to accelerate development and achievement of the SDGs in Uganda. One of the key issues discussed was the rapidly reducing forest cover. It was noted that some of the tree species planted such as eucalyptus were mainly for economic purposes but where degrading the environment. It was agreed that there was a need for balance on economic gains and conservation of the environment by planting indigenous trees all over the country.

It was noted that land tenure system was a critical factor not only for social cohesion but also for investment and agricultural production.

Uganda’s youthful population was recognized as an asset which could be harnessed through equipping them with the right skills for the local and international job market.

The 16 recommendations from the UNDAF MTE were fully endorsed by the meeting.

Dr. Rugunda noted that there was an excellent relationship between Government of Uganda and the UN at leadership level and he called for the same relationship at technical level including service delivery.

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