Government, Civil Society Relaunch a national campaign to popularize the SDGs dubbed “Tondeka Mabega” – Leave No One Behind

Minister for General Duties and Cabinet Focal Point on the SDGs, Hon. Mary Karooro Okurut has relaunched a local campaign dubbed “Tondeka Mabega” – Leave No One Behind Citizen Dialogues.

The campaign aims at amplifying the voices of marginalized groups and demand for a fundamental shift in national and global policy commitments to end inequality and poverty which perpetuate human suffering.

The Minister relaunched the campaign during a half day Joint Government, Civil Society consultative meeting on the Localization of the SDGs in Uganda which took place on 21 May 2019 at Hotel African, Kampala.

While addressing participants, Hon. Karooro pledged Government’s support toward the success of the “Tondeka Mabega” campaign. “The Government of Uganda welcomes this campaign and we shall work with civil society to build momentum across the country for citizens to participate in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals under the Framework of our National Development Plan,” said Hon. Karooro.

“Leave no One behind cannot happen if we do not work together. We have to leverage comparative advantage of each other to be able to deliver on the SDGs,” said Mr. Elkhidir Daloum, Acting United Nations Resident Coordinator and World Food Programme Country Representative. “There is need to give incentives to private sector to become the driving forces in achieving the SDGs in Uganda,” he added.

Hon. Barnabas Tinkasimire, Buyaga, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on SDGs pledged to work with his colleagues to ensure that critical services that can uplift the lives of most Ugandans are highly invested in by government so that we “Leave No One Behind”.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders in the implementation of SDG's including Government focal persons for the SDG Coordination Framework, UN Agencies, Civil Society Organisations (CSO) focusing on SDGs, Private Sector, representatives of vulnerable groups, SDGs well-wishers and Development Partners.

In September 2015 under Uganda’s presidency, held by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Sam Kutesa, 193 Member States of the United Nations reached consensus on the outcome document of new ambitious sustainable development agenda entitled, “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which was adopted at a special session of the General Assembly.

The SDGs represent an unprecedented agreement among the Member States and are a useful tool for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development.
Uganda has made great strides in taking the SDGs forward by aligning the SDGs to the second National Development Plan, developing as an inclusive and comprehensive SDGs National Coordination Framework and a National SDG Roadmap for the implementation of localization of SDGs. In addition, in October 2018 a focal point Minister for the SDGs was appointed by the Prime Minister. This shows that Uganda is on course to ensure full integration of SDGs as part of the national development process - through a domestication process at community level and an integration process in the national development process.