



**Launch of Project to Support Entebbe International Airport's COVID Response
8 September 2020 | Entebbe, Uganda
Remarks By Ms. Rosa Malango,
UN Resident Coordinator and Designated Official for Security,**

The Minister of Works and Transport, General Katumba Wamala

The Chief of Mission of IOM, the UN Migration Agency, Mr Sanusi Tejan Savage

Representatives of Civil Aviation Authority, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Colleagues,

The Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the United Nations system in Uganda I am pleased to address you as we launch this important and timely project. This intervention will help Strengthen Surveillance and Early Warning systems to respond to COVID-19 at Points of Entry in Uganda.

I would like to begin by commending all frontline personnel, including the CAA and other support staff at the airport, for helping to prevent COVID-19. Part of the UN support to the COVID-19 response included sustaining critical movements and flights for life saving operations, key backup support and medical evacuations. I would like to recognize the role of CAA in enabling the UN to maintain critical flights during the lockdown, which has kept thousands alive.

COVID-19 puts all of humanity at risk and requires an urgent and coordinated multi-stakeholder response focused on the intensification of surveillance, detection and containment measures, as well as case management and community engagement. In Uganda, the Ministry of Health supported by WHO has worked closely to ensure that preventive measures are rolled out and case management is improved.

It is important to recognize that the major challenge for airports and other points of entry is to ensure that passengers remain comfortable and safe, while managing the spread of COVID-19. By

ensuring access to information, social distancing, screening and surveillance, aviation authorities can allay fears and make travelers more comfortable. In this context, at the request of the Ministry of Health and with funding from UK Aid, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) built a temporary screening terminal at Entebbe International Airport. Today we build upon this investment through this project to Support Entebbe Airport's COVID Response by the UN Migration Agency (IOM) which we are launching.

The new terminal is comprised of five large rub halls adjacent to the airport's permanent arrivals terminal and provides a spacious environment for health workers to ensure sufficient physical distancing and isolate those suspected to have COVID-19. IOM will provide new equipment required by the Civil Aviation Authority to meet new airport safety and security standards so that the new terminal can be used. More than 1,000 passengers a day are expected to pass through the Entebbe terminal once the Airport re-opens.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The necessary measures taken to limit COVID19 transmission, including closure of borders, restrictions on movements, and quarantines, are impacting people's ability to access basic services and to sustain their livelihoods. These measures have also drastically reduced the level of economic activity. The joint UN socio-economic impact analysis predicts a direct loss of US\$5 billion in the tourism sector alone for the period 2020-2025.

It is our hope that this project, generously supported by the Government of Denmark, will help the CAA in to ensure the safe movement of people and goods during this time which is vital for social and economic recovery as outlined in the third National Development Pan (NDPIII) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

On behalf of the United Nations in Uganda, I conclude by conveying my thanks to the Government of Uganda, the Government of Denmark, the IOM Regional and Uganda offices as well as to stakeholders for your support and collaboration. The UN remains committed to working with everyone to address this crisis and follow the guidelines of Ministry of Health and WHO.

Thank you for your attention.