Remarks at Inauguration of Immigration Training Academy, Nakasongola

Ms. Rosa Malango
UN Resident Coordinator &
UNDP Resident Representative
10 April 2017

Right Honourable Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister
Honourable Obiga Kania, Minister of State of Internal Affairs
Your Excellency, Ambassador Kazuaki Kameda, Ambassador of Japan
Mr. Ali Abdi, Chief of Mission IOM Uganda
Members of Parliament
The Resident District Commissioner
The LC V Chairman
Ladies and Gentlemen,

• Thank you for the invitation to attend the inauguration of the Immigration Training Academy. I participated in the launch of the project-of which this Academy is part of in July of last year and I am extremely pleased to see that this beautiful academy was constructed in such a short period of time and to such high standards. Congratulations to the Directorate of Citizenship and
Immigration Control and to IOM for this achievement and thank you Japan for contributing the funding.

- I will focus on the importance of this academy for Uganda’s National Vision 2040 and its implications for the region and Agenda 2030.

- I want to applaud the commissioning of this dedicated centre for training on immigration and border management as they are essential components of peace, security and development.

- Let me begin with regional implications. Investing in human capita development is a shared priority of the Government of Uganda and the United Nations. That is the reason why the Plan of Action of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region - or PSC Framework-, includes three benchmarks related to borders, more specifically about the need to establish joint border controls and surveillance systems and periodic exchange of information on unauthorized cross-border movements.

- We also that cross-border trade is going to be absolutely necessary for Uganda to reach middle income status as outlined in Uganda’s Vision 2040 document.

- According to the World Bank, increased cross-border trade in the Great Lakes region coincides with poverty reduction in border communities. The World Bank has also reported that the benefits of cross-border trade are not being maximized due to a lack of transparency and awareness by traders and
government officials on rules and regulations that govern the cross-border movement of people and goods. It is essential to ensure that government officials posted at borders have the knowledge and skills to support cross-border traders. Every Ugandan should know the procedures for legitimate trade in these areas. I invite cultural and religious leaders to support safe and healthy cross border activities.

• We also know that Uganda’s borders are the beacon of hope for more than a million refugees who have fled conflict. Even with an unprecedented inflow of refugees, Uganda continues to apply an inclusive and progressive refugee protection model that enables refugees to work and learn alongside Ugandan host communities. The Settlement Transformation Agenda (STA) and Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (REHoPE) initiative are now considered a best practice by the international community and will be the focus of the upcoming Solidarity Summit to be co-hosted by President Yoweri Museveni and UN Secretary-General António Guterres to mobilize resources for life saving action and for livelihoods.

• Ladies & Gentlemen, successful investment in humanitarian and development action requires regional coordination by all of us on peace and security. The UN in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda have come together to better align our work to that of the PSC Framework. The strategy we have put together includes a strong component on border management and cross-border mobility. This means that the UN in all these countries is committed to delivering as one to ensure that borders and border regions are a place where security issues are detected and properly referred, where trade can
take place without unnecessary hindrances and where communities thrive in dignity.

• I will conclude with a few words on national relevance. At the national level, we have included immigration and border management as part of our Peace, Security and Resilience outcome in our UNDAF - United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The UN in Uganda commits itself to establishing mechanisms to foster national resilience to cross-border security threats and to support the strengthening of regional partnerships for effective implementation of regional and international instruments that facilitate peacebuilding. We have received funds to begin to support National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremes.

• It is also important to highlight that comprehensive, whole-of-government and evidence based migration policies are a necessary component of good governance and socio-economic development as envisioned in Uganda’s Vision 2040. In this context this Academy becomes part of Uganda’s progressive comprehensive approach to migration, which we hope will be recognized as a model for the New York Declaration Global Compact on Migration to be adopted in 2018.

• This Academy is a clear example of the UN contributing to Uganda’s second National Development Plan which highlights the need to strengthen the infrastructure of the Justice, Law and Order Sector to facilitate service delivery.
• This Academy and more generally the work that the UN is doing with regards to migration is also contributing to SDG target 10.7 (facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies)

• Ladies and Gentlemen His Excellency President Museveni has conveyed his concern about the border communities with DRC. We agreed on a comprehensive approach that has as key components to strengthen border management and increase investments to economic prosperity. I am pleased to announce that this special initiative will be launched shortly as an example of national solutions with regional impact.

• I make a call for this Academy to feature prominently in this initiative. This can be a place where Ugandan and DRC officials come together to find joint solutions to immigration and border management challenges

Right Honourable Prime Minister, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentleman

• I conclude by reiterating that the UN is here to support the Government and people of Uganda as it works to sustain peace, security and sustainable development. The design and construction of this Academy together with other IOM achievements on border and immigration management are an example of how we are delivering on this promise.

• It is also heartening to know that we have the steadfast support of the Government Japan who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to peace and
security in Africa. I want to thank Japan for its various investments in Uganda through the UN family.

• Congratulations again to Uganda on this achievement.

• Allow me to offer 6 SDG bags, made in Uganda, to the following honourable stakeholders as a token of our partnership
  - His Highness Isabaluli, Isabarongo Mwogezi
  - The Chief Kadi of Nakasongola District
  - The Resident District Commissioner
  - The LC V Chairman
  - The Area Member of Parliament
  - The Head of the Academy