Opening Remarks 13th Annual Joint AIDS Review and 11th Partnership Forum
Theme: ‘Ending AIDS; Leaving no One behind’

Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator and
Designated Official for Security
Virtual Meeting 26th August 2020 9:00 am to 10:40 am

Hon. Esther Mbayo, Minister for the Presidency
H.E. Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director UNAIDS
H.E. Nicole McHugh, Deputy Ambassador & Head of Cooperation, Republic of Ireland
Mr. Christopher Krafft, Charge d’Affairs US Embassy Kampala
Dr. Eddie Mukooyo, Chairman, Uganda AIDS Commission
Dr. Nelson Musoba, Director General UAC

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to welcome you to the 13th Annual Joint AIDS Review and 11th Partnership Forum
in Uganda, which is being held as a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year the
Joint Annual Review is of particular significant, because it is happening at the end of
implementation of the five year strategy and also the end of the 90 90 90 UNAIDS target period.
While the level of implementation was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative to
note that Uganda with 35% is among the countries successfully reducing the number of HIV
infections. However, these numbers demonstrate that we still have work to do. We recognize that
the science is solid, but one of our key challenges is implementation at community level. We must
reinforce partnerships, amend communication methods in order to reinforce community
participation if we are to attain the 2030 targets. Another challenge which requires collective
reflection is the deficit in financing as result of significant reliance on donors, who are focused
more on treatment than on prevention. We need to ensure sustainable financing for both prevention
and treatment. We also need to find ways to increase domestic financing which remains at 10 per
cent of requirements. We recognize the need to support the Uganda AIDS Commission to cost
Government contributions through infrastructure and salaries among others to the AID response.
The achievements made so far have been thanks to collective efforts led by the Government and the investment of donors. I would like to thank the donors for the critical support provided so far. In particular I would like to thank Ireland for the investment made over the years in education, adolescent girls, HIV and Karamoja. We need your support to sustain these gains and keep the focus on HIV alive. As you develop your new partnership and cooperation strategy for Uganda, I would like to invite Ireland, a strong advocate human rights and social justice, to consider sustaining its investment in the HIV/AIDS response. Thank you for sponsoring today’s review.

I would also like to thank the United States of America for funding almost 80% of HIV response. Without your investment we have made significant strides. As you consider a transition, we encourage a discussion with the Government on roadmap, milestones and the long-term impact of $500 million should it no longer be available. I encourage the Government to continue to increase its investment as part of its national vision. To the United States, we still need significant support in order not to lose the gains made to date.

In light of the impact of COVID19 on the HIV response, there is need to highlight other health related issues, and develop additional capacity to respond concurrently to COVID-19, Malaria, HIV, malnutrition, Non-Communicable Diseases, among others. I invite the private sector to support investments in protecting the national workforce by supporting efforts to have national insurance. Uganda cannot become a middle-income country without insurance arrangements, minimum wage and other protections for its citizens. Health care is a human right, therefore there should be public funded health care for all. HIV is an epidemic of inequality with a higher burden on women and girls.

As I conclude, I would like to commend the Government of Uganda for its efforts in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and reducing HIV infections. COVID19 needs to be tackled in order not to reverse the gains made against poverty, HIV and inequality. Domestic financing and national insurance will be vital in building on the gains made. I welcome the suggestion by the Right Honorable Prime Minister to brief cabinet on how Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are mainstreaming the HIV response within the context of the NDP III. Mainstreaming gender, health and education should inform additional financing approved by Government going forward.

Thank you