



## **Statement at UNDAF Joint Steering Committee Meeting**

**By Ms. Rosa Malango**

**UN Resident Coordinator**

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Conference Hall, Office of the President, Kampala**

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda  
The Minister for General Duties and Government Coordinator for the Sustainable Development Goals, Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Government officials,  
UN Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
All Protocol observed

On behalf of the United Nations system in Uganda, I am pleased to address you at this United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2016-2020) Joint Steering Committee meeting. This is our partnership space created to enable us to discuss strategic intentions, the prevailing context as well as the best possible modalities to achieve shared outcomes in Uganda. Today we will do this together, both the United

Nations and the Government of Uganda (our host), by reviewing the findings and recommendations from the mid-term evaluation of the current UNDAF.

I would like to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for co-chairing the Joint Steering Committee meeting. I also want to thank the Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and other officials for joining us during this important engagement that will help transform and strengthen our partnership. This is an opportune time for the UN and Government to reflect on what we do, how we do it, how we can improve and what we should focus on going forward. We must embrace the implications of leaving no one behind in our plans, our service delivery and our efforts to improve the lives of the people of Uganda. We must rise up together to embrace innovation and successfully tap into Uganda's significant young human resources if the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals are to serve as a pathway to achieve the National Vision 2040, the EAC 2050 and the Africa 2063 agendas.

**Right Honourable Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The United Nations is committed to Uganda's Vision 2040 that aims at "A transformed Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years" these aspirations are pursued through five-year National Development Plans (NDPs). The theme of the second NDP (2015/16-2019/20) sets out to strengthen Uganda's competitiveness for sustainable wealth creation, employment and inclusive growth to in

order to achieve middle income status by 2020. The UNDAF 2016 -2020 was developed to guide the UN's support to the Government of Uganda in achieving the Vision 2040 and the second National Development Plan (NDP II), by focusing on three Strategic Intent Pillars: i) Governance, ii) Human Capital Development (HCD), and iii) Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development (SIED).

Our decision to undertake a mid-term evaluation was influenced by the need to assess progress in implementation but also the need to look into the potential implications of changes at international, regional and national levels since the development of this UNDAF. At international level, the UN is undergoing reform to become more coherent, accountable and effective in supporting countries achieve the 2030 Agenda. The UN reform aims to reposition the United Nations development system with a stronger, better-defined collective identity as a trusted, reliable, accountable and effective partner; one that Member States invest in, and rely on, because they understand and support what it does, what it can deliver on, and how it functions. On 1 January 2019, all Resident Coordinators including myself took over their new functions as the highest-ranking development representatives of the UN system, leading 131 UN country teams serving 164 countries and territories, to deliver collective responses to national needs and ensure system-wide accountability on the ground around the world.

The reforms respond directly to the paradigm shift introduced by the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The SDGs are the reference and purpose of our reform. It is with pride that I acknowledge Uganda's leadership as President of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly that adopted Agenda 2030 on SDGs. In 2015, the Government and the UN in Uganda became pioneers when we anchored the NDP II on the SDGs and by aligning the current UNDAF to the NDP II which factored in the SDGs.

**Right Honourable Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Reforms are delivering a new generation of UN country teams, whose composition, roles and profiles are tailored to the context, deliver shared results, and include a redesigned UNDAF that now becomes the main strategic instrument to respond to national needs and priorities. The new generation UNDAF is expected to become a partnership compact that drives national ownership and national sustainable goals with a diverse group of partners.

At national the level, the UN in Uganda is cognisant of the mid-term evaluation of NDP II, the terminal evaluation of the first NDP and their implications correlation to the UNDAF. The recommendations from the UNDAF mid-term evaluation are broadly clustered along the relevance,

effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the UNDAF. We believe this will enable the Government and the UN Country Team to agree on how to accelerate delivery, how to track the targets of the two development frameworks and shape the priorities of the third NDP and the next UNDAF. We look forward to working with the Government, in particular your Office Right Honourable Prime Minister, to ensure closer engagement with other partners (humanitarian, development, private sector,) in the development of the next UNDAF to ensure it better reflects the realities of implementing the SDGs in Uganda. The reform also aims to encourage more diverse partnerships and innovative approaches to financing. The Reforms usher in a shift in donor funding towards more predictable and flexible resources to allow the UN development system to tailor its support and enhance results delivery. It also encourages strategic engagements with emerging financing tools for each country. It is on this note that I want to thank you for appointing Honorable Okurut as your representative to lead coordination on behalf of the Government on SDGs. We look forward to supporting her work, starting with a massive national grassroots awareness effort to bring the SDGs to the people.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the importance of this strategic meeting as a safe space for both of us to assess progress and hold each other accountable on our efforts to improve the lives of people of Uganda. We only have one planet, one Africa region and one Uganda. We can become

a center of excellence on SDG implementation, accountability and awareness if we work together. I look forward to this new phase of collaboration.

Thank you.