
KAMPALA, 26 June 2020 – On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter, the United Nations in Uganda wishes to congratulate the member states of the United Nations and all the peoples of the World for reaching this milestone. The Charter of the United Nations was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco and came into force on 24 October 1945.

The UN Secretary-General declared 2020 as the commencement of the Decade of Action for accelerating sustainable solutions to the world’s biggest challenges—ranging from poverty and gender to climate change, inequality and closing the finance gap. In addition, this year the United Nations marks her 75th anniversary under the theme ‘The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism’. Over the past 75 years the UN Charter has lived up to its expectation of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of world wars that had twice caused untold sorrow. While there have been several wars between countries, the past 75 years are described as the long world peace period.

The Charter also aimed to uphold fundamental human rights of all human beings and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. From 2000 to 2015, the United Nations strived to achieve this aspiration through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and since 2015 the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become the main pathway to achieve the aspirations of the UN Charter. This year we also celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the creation of the United Nations. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way we work but it has not affected the principles and values which stand at the core of the UN Charter. In Uganda, the Government has taken concerted and decisive action to mitigate and prevent the spread of COVID-19 while the UN System in Uganda has also taken decisive action to tackle COVID-19 and its impacts including through reprogramming and launching a joint US$ 316 million appeal with Uganda Red Cross and 11 local NGOs, to assist 12.8 million of the people hardest hit. A new Uganda Country Based Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) was also launched to support coherence in funding to improve access to health, food and nutrition as well as social support and humanitarian assistance for refugees and displaced persons, among others.

As we celebrate the UN Charter, the UN at 75 and the beginning of the UN Decade of Action, we have a great opportunity to ensure youth and women are part of discussions towards acceleration of the SDGs. Since Uganda became the 110th member of the United Nations on 25th October 1962, the UN system has supported the Government and people of Uganda with humanitarian assistance and support to achieve their development aspirations. The support provided by the United Nations over the years has ranged from health, education, agriculture, refugee care and disaster response to trade, gender equality and women empowerment among other areas. The UN System in Uganda has just completed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2016 – 2020 which is aligned to the third National Development Plan (NDP III), the National Vision 2040 and the SDGs. It is expected to enhance coherence, efficiencies and mutual accountability.
As we celebrate the anniversary of the UN Charter and imagine future frameworks that will keep implementation alive in decades to come, I invite you to share your views of the kind of United Nations you want by taking part in the conversation @JoinUN75 and #UN75 on social media and by adding your voice to the testimonials from around the world by taking part in the one-minute survey www.un75.online The views and ideas will be presented by the UN Secretary-General to world leaders in September 2020.

In Uganda, as part of activities to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the UN in Uganda in partnership with the Government, the Youth Coalition for SDGs and stakeholders invite youth to share solutions to sustainable development challenges by submitting them at www.ugandayouthsolutions.com. The proposals will be reviewed and the best showcased to the development partners on UN Day 24 October 2020.