



CONCEPT NOTE
FOR
UGANDA ANNUAL SDG CONFERENCE 2022
June 16-17, 2022
Serena Conference Centre, Kampala

THE SDG SECRETARIAT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Adopted in 2015, the 2030 Agenda framework for sustainable development and the 17 Goals is a universal plan for all countries to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. It provides a focus for the international community's development efforts until 2030. The 17 goals and 169 targets provide a yardstick by which progress is measured. In addition, the African Union Agenda 2063 seeks to support a new path for attaining inclusive and sustaining economic growth through seven (7) ¹ pillars. Through the pledge to Leave No One Behind, countries have committed to fast-track progress for those furthest behind first through a set of indicators that measure inequalities and exclusion. That is why the SDGs are designed to bring the world to several life-changing 'zeros', including zero poverty, zero-hunger, zero AIDS related stigma, zero discrimination against women and girls as well as zero new HIV infections.

Uganda was one of the first countries to adapt and integrate the SDG performance targets in the two generations of the national development plan 2015/16–2019/20 and the 2020/21–2024/25. Notwithstanding, the progress in the implementation of the two agendas, available assessments show that countries require urgent support to speed up the pace and expand the scale of implementation to deliver transformative actions that will drive progress across multiple goals. The Government of Uganda has implemented an inclusive process to ensure that the people, starting with national coordination arrangements, own the 2030 Agenda. Institutional delivery on the SDGs is guided by a multi-stakeholder National SDG Coordination Framework that was established in 2016 under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister. The Coordination framework is anchored within the exiting Government structures but also identifies and brings on board the different non state actors including the United Nations, Private Sector CSOs and development partners. The Coordination framework therefore defines the roles of different Government Agencies and the non-state actors in supporting the implementation, monitoring and reporting. The Government has supported the integration of SDGs into the national development frameworks and as a result, over 90 percent of the SDGs indicators are aligned in the 3rd National Development Plan (NDP III).

Additionally, the Government has demonstrated commitment to SDG implementation through appointment of the SDG Focal Point Minister at the office of the Prime Minister and establishment of the SDG Secretariat to support in the Coordination architecture. In 2021, the Government developed and launched a new SDG Roadmap (2021-2025) which defines key actions to be undertaken and to fast-track SDG implementation including popularization and communication. The SDG Roadmap suggests benchmarking and leveraging the global and regional opportunities including the High-Level Political Forum and the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development whose main aims are to bolster multi-stakeholder engagement and synergies in order to achieve

¹ Incomes, jobs and decent work; Poverty, inequality and hunger; Social security and protection including for persons with disabilities; modern, affordable and livable habitats and quality basic services; education and science, technology and innovation (STI) driven skills revolution; Sustainable and inclusive economic growth, health and nutrition; STI driven manufacturing, industrialization and value addition and economic diversification and resilience

the development objectives of 2030 Agenda for SDGs and Agenda 2063. Furthermore, the 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report recommended six actions that focus on strengthening partnerships, innovations, coordination and building a leadership culture at all levels. It is against this backdrop that the Government of Uganda proposes a national level annual forum that brings together different partners with interest in the SDGs. The SDG annual event will also facilitate reviews of strategies on COVID-19 recovery and reflect on policy pathways through SDGs to allow for stakeholders a shared vision and policy consensus on the best practices.

2.0 About the Annual SDG Conference

As a means of accelerating the implementation of the new SDG roadmap, building a strong leadership culture and popularizing the SDGs, the Government of Uganda under the coordination of the Office of the Prime Minister has planned to initiate a domestic platform for expediting follow-up, review and validation of progress made on the SDGs Agenda 2030; and the African Union Agenda 2063 and all commitments and recommendations of the second VNR Report. This Platform shall hereafter be referred to as the Uganda Annual Sustainable Development Goals Conference (ASDGC-UG); and thus **ASDGC-UG2022 for the first conference**. The ASDGC like all the international and regional platforms on sustainable development will facilitate sharing of ideas and good practices at local and national level and catalyze actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the associated SDGs. The planned SDG annual event will also facilitate sharing and analyzing national progress on SDGs and prepare different stakeholders to participate in the annual High Level Political Forum (HLPF) as it will draw **key messages**, which will be a collective input to the HLPF on all the deliberations of the conference. The Annual event will not only focus on mobilising partners to support implementation of the new SDG Roadmap (2021-2025) but will also continuously building momentum and for a cohesive national SDG Coordination framework.

The ASDGC-UG shall be multi-stakeholder platform organized jointly by the Government of Uganda under the Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with the United Nations in Uganda and other development partners, civil society, academia, the private sector and local governments for peer learning. It will be hosted by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister whose office is responsible for the 2030 Agenda coordination in Uganda but also draw participation of Cabinet Ministers, Senior Government Officials, local authorities, United Nations Experts, Private sector, Civil Society Organizations and the Academia to share progress against the SDG indicators and respective targets.

The first ASDGC-UG 2022 is premised on the need to foster stakeholder reviews on the annual SDG progress report 2021 but will also reflect on the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of national priorities highlighted in the 3rd National Development Plan to ensure that no one is left behind. The conference will be held at both regional (6th, 9th, 13th June 2022) and national (16th-17th June 2022). The theme of the Conference will be **“Building Effective Models to accelerate the SDGs in the Post COVID-19 Era”** that has a resonance with the context and NDPIII implementation vehicle of the Parish Development Model.

The Conference will therefore generate key messages and actions to influence the processes of other global and national events and platforms like HLPF, Government Annual Performance reporting, Apex Platform and the national budget conference.

2.1 Objectives

The key objectives of the ASDGC-UG2022 include the following;

- To discuss the findings of the National SDG Progress Report- 2021
- To share good practices and innovations to address SDG implementation challenges in the new SDG Roadmap
- To draw national declarations and key messages to be shared at the auspices of the High-Level Political Forum 2022 and the UN General Assembly.

The annual National SDG Conference will be conducted under the three sub themes that will inform the high-level panel discussions as follows.

- *Priorities and financing to Accelerate the 2030 Agenda*
- *“Leaving No One Behind”: Technology, Data & Evidence for Social Protection*
- *Local Authorities delivering on the SDG promise.*

2.2 Expected Outcomes

The conference is expected to build and generate stakeholder consensus on the achievements made in the implementation of SDGs. It is expected that key messages on different SDG thematic areas and draw actions to accelerate SDG implementation under the new SDG Roadmap.

The Conference will also facilitate key messages for presentation during the High-Level Political Forum and the UN General Assembly.

3.0 Mode of Implementation

The Conference will be preceded by regional mini discussions with Local Government and development partners in the three regions (Northern Uganda in Gulu on June 8, 2022, Western Uganda in Hoima on June 10, 2022 and Eastern Uganda in Mbale on June 13, 2022 which will culminate into the two-day national conference. This will build momentum of localising and popularising SDGs but also facilitate generation of key messages that will be synthesised for discussion at the National level Conference.

4.0 Timing and Venue

The ASDG-UG 2022 provides a forum for the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), UN Agencies, International NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, Academia and the Private sector to come together to share practical solutions to achieve and advance the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063 in Uganda.

Dates: 16th to 17th June 2022

Venue: Serena Conference Centre, Kampala

5.0 Target Participants for the First Annual National SDG Conference

The conference will provide for both physical and virtual participation. The First Annual National SDG Conference will bring together participants and stakeholders from Ministers, high-level policymakers, officer and experts from Ministries, Departments and Agencies, UN Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, Business and Industry Organizations, Academia and Research Institutions, Development Partners and Media.

It will also target international experts from sister member states and partners from outside Uganda

The official opening of the Conference will be officiated by:

- H.E, the President of the Republic of Uganda
- The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda
- The Minister for General Duties/Focal Point Minister for the Sustainable Development Goals
- The UN Resident Coordinator, Heads of UN Agencies in Uganda, Development Partners
- Ministers and Technical leaders from Ministries, Departments and Agencies,

6.0 Side Events and Workshops

The ASDG-UG2022 will host a number of side events to allow stakeholders and partners display good practices and success stories. There will be a call for proposals/concept note from prospective hosts of side events. The organizing committee will determine the number of side events and timelines for applications. **The Side Events dates are June 14 &15, 2022.**

6.0 Communication and Logistics

A conference dedicated link on the SDG Secretariat website will be activated to ease access to all conference materials and information including program, travel details, registration forms, side event applications. The First Annual National SDG Conference will also have social publications that is through newspaper, magazine, posters, and flyers. These will be printed and circulated to the concerned different entities as a means of promoting the event.

The conference will have Information, Education and Communication materials aiming to educate different gender, age and social groups about the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, there will be direct mailing, outdoor advertising, radio and TV broadcast as a part of the communication plan with in a comprehensive strategy.

7.0 The organizing Committee

The First Annual National SDG Conference will have a committee responsible for the development and drafting of standards, developing and managing the programs, and fundraising for the event. The Organising Committee will comprise of;

- Representatives from the Government
- Representatives from the United Nations Systems
- Civil Society Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations
- The Private Sector and Academia.

Different Sub Committees will be formed during the first meeting of the Organising committee to manage the different aspects of the conference. These will include among others Technical Committee, Communication Committee, Logistics Committee and Security and Protocol Committee. The SDG Secretariat will chair the organising committee and provide overall coordination and Secretariat services for organising and logistics management related to this conference.