

**THE THIRD UGANDA ANNUAL SDG CONFERENCE 2024  
AND DISSEMINATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT 2023**



**Date: June 19-20, 2024**

**Conference Report**

## Conference Pictorial

 <p><i>H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni</i></p>	 <p><i>Rt Hon Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja</i></p>
 <p><i>Hon. Raphael Magyezi, Minister of Local Government</i></p>	 <p><i>HE. Susan Ngongi Namondo, the United Nations Resident Coordinator</i></p>
 <p><i>Mr. Dunstan Balaba, Permanent Secretary Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)</i></p>	 <p><i>Dr Albert Byamugisha, Head of the National SDGs Secretariat OPM</i></p>
 <p><i>Mr. Mayanja Gonzanga, Commissioner Monitoring and Evaluation Local Government, OPM</i></p>	 <p><i>H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda poses for a photo with the dignitaries at the Conference</i></p>

## **Foreword**

It is with great honor that I present the foreword for the report on the Third Uganda Annual SDG Conference 2024 and the Dissemination of the Local Government Management of Service Delivery Report 2023.

The conference, held at Speke Resort Munyonyo on 19-20 June 2024, brought together government officials, development partners, and civil society representatives to discuss and strategize on the nation's progress and challenges in achieving the SDGs. It emphasized the critical role of local governments in driving sustainable development, particularly through the Parish Development Model (PDM), which aims to transition a significant portion of the population from subsistence farming to a money economy.

The report highlights Uganda's substantial progress in SDG implementation, marked by improvements in poverty reduction, education, healthcare, and infrastructure. The third Voluntary National Review (VNR) presented at the conference provides a comprehensive analysis of these achievements and outlines strategies for addressing persistent challenges, such as gender inequality and environmental sustainability. The emphasis on inclusive development, enhanced data systems, and public-private partnerships reflects Uganda's holistic approach to sustainable development.

My message reiterates the importance of continued multi-stakeholder engagement and innovative financing mechanisms. The report's policy recommendations and outcomes are expected to shape Uganda's strategic direction in sustainable development, reinforcing its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The conference's outcomes, including the launch of key reports, demonstrate Uganda's proactive stance in addressing global challenges and advancing its national development goals. I reiterate Uganda's dedication to achieving a prosperous and sustainable future for all its citizens, aligning national efforts with global sustainable development frameworks.

**Mr. Dunstan Balaba**  
**Permanent Secretary**  
**Office of the Prime Minister**

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AfDB- African Development Bank  
BAU- Business as Usual  
CSOs - Civil Society Organizations  
DDEG - Development Discretionary Equalization Grant  
DLGs - District Local Governments  
EFRIS- Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing Solution  
ES - Environmental and Social  
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization  
HCMIS - Human Capital Management Information System  
HETI- Household Economic Transformation Initiative  
ICT - Information and Communications Technology  
IGFTR - Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer Reforms  
IRCU- Interreligious Council in Uganda  
KCCA - Kampala Capital City Authority  
LGMSD - Local Government Management of Service Delivery  
LGs - Local Governments  
LLGs - Lower Local Governments  
LNOB- Leave No One Behind  
MDAs: Ministries, Departments and Agencies  
MoFPED- Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic development  
MoLG - Ministry of Local Government  
NDPIII - National Development Plan III  
NDPIV - National Development Plan IV  
NDP – National Planning Authority  
NRM - National Resistance Movement  
ODI-BSI - Overseas Development Institute's Budget Strengthening Initiative  
OPM - Office of the Prime Minister  
PDM - Parish Development Model  
PDMIS - Parish Development Model Information System  
PIPs - Performance Improvement Plans  
PLE - Primary Leaving Examination  
PIF - Performance Improvement Framework  
SACCOs- Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations  
SAGE - Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment  
SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals  
STI- Science, Technology and Innovation  
TWGs- Technical Working Groups  
UK Aid - United Kingdom's Department for International Development  
UgIFT - Uganda Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer Programme  
ULGA- Uganda Local Government Association  
UN - United Nations  
UNRA - Uganda National Roads Authority  
USAID - United States Agency for International Development  
VNR - Voluntary National Review  
YLP - Youth Livelihood Program

## **Introduction**

The Third Uganda Annual SDG Conference 2024 highlighted the nation's commitment to sustainable development. Held from June 19-20, 2024, at Speke Resort Munyonyo, this conference brought together key stakeholders, including government officials, development partners, and civil society representatives. Under the theme "Strengthening Localization and Service Delivery Mechanisms for National Development and SDG Acceleration and Transformation," the event focused on Uganda's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063.

In the past seven years, Uganda has made significant strides in SDG implementation, improving its global ranking to 136 out of 163 countries, with an average score of 54.9 in 2022. The conference served as a platform to reflect on these achievements, identify challenges, and strategize for accelerated progress. Key discussions centered around the mid-term review of the Third National Development Plan (NDPIII), which informed the development of the forthcoming NDPIV.

The conference emphasized the critical role of local governments in achieving the SDGs, particularly through initiatives like the Parish Development Model (PDM). The PDM aims to transition 39% of Ugandans from subsistence farming to a money economy, focusing on food security, job creation, and wealth generation. Additionally, the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer (UgIFT) Reform Programme was highlighted as essential in enhancing local government efficiency in service delivery.

Keynote speakers, including the President Yoweri Museveni and Rt Hon. Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja, underscored the importance of socio-economic transformation. They emphasized the need for ideological shifts, mindset changes, and a focus on agriculture and infrastructure development to create sustainable employment and enhance production. The conference also addressed environmental protection, with calls to safeguard natural resources and combat corruption.

The presentation of Uganda's third Voluntary National Review (VNR) provided a comprehensive analysis of the country's progress, challenges, and strategies for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Key areas of focus included poverty reduction, education, healthcare, and gender equality. The event also featured the launch of significant reports, including the Voluntary National Review Report, the Local Government Management of Service Delivery Report and the National Leaving No One Behind Assessment Report.

The conference's outcomes are expected to shape Uganda's policy landscape, enhancing the country's ability to deliver efficient and effective services. It reinforced the commitment to inclusive development, ensuring that all Ugandans benefit from sustainable progress. The event positioned Uganda to contribute actively to global milestones such as the High-Level Political Forum and the SDG Summit, showcasing innovative approaches and aligning efforts with the broader 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

## **Keynote Address by H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda and official closing of the Conference**



*H.E the President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, while delivering his remarks and closing the Conference on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

In his keynote address, President Yoweri K. Museveni reaffirmed Uganda's dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the critical need for localizing these objectives to ensure effective implementation. He highlighted significant advancements in poverty alleviation, human development,

and infrastructure investment. The President stressed that achieving the SDGs is contingent upon profound socio-economic transformation, advocating for ideological shifts and mindset changes to enhance productivity, trade, and economic systems.

He underscored the importance of focusing on agriculture and infrastructure development to create sustainable employment and enhance production. The President called for robust environmental protection measures, urging local government leaders to safeguard wetlands, forests, rivers, and lakes from encroachment. He declared a strong stance against corruption, identifying it as a major impediment to development.

President Yoweri Museveni emphasized the importance of socio-economic transformation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He asserted that fundamental societal changes, akin to those seen in countries like China and South Korea, are crucial for sustainable development. The President highlighted the need for active involvement in key economic sectors; commercial agriculture, industry, services, and ICT and stressed the critical role of infrastructure, such as electricity and transport, in supporting economic growth and development. Museveni underscored that without a comprehensive socio-economic transformation, achieving the SDGs remains unattainable.

President Museveni also elaborated on the Parish Development Model (PDM) as a key strategy for transitioning subsistence households into a money economy, enhancing food security, job creation, and wealth generation. He emphasized the necessity of efficient governance, improved fund management, and the operationalization of the PDM Information System (PDMIS). Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of value addition and market access for subsistence farmers to foster sustainable economic growth.

The President outlined Uganda's strategic priorities, including industrialization, modernization of agriculture, and infrastructure development, as crucial drivers for economic competitiveness. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to investing in education and health, recognizing the importance of a well-educated and healthy populace for sustainable development.

In conclusion, President Museveni reiterated Uganda's steadfast commitment to the SDGs, urging leaders, especially at the local government level, to embrace decentralization and participate actively in inclusive planning and decision-making processes. He emphasized collective efforts to ensure that development benefits are equitably distributed, fostering an inclusive and sustainable future for Uganda. The President also officially launched three key reports: the Local Government Management of Service Delivery Report, the National Leaving No One Behind Assessment Report, and the 3rd Voluntary National Review Report.

### **Keynote Address and Official Opening of the Conference by the Rt Hon Prime Minister of Uganda**



*Rt Hon. Prime Minister Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja opening the Conference on June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

At the 3rd SDG Conference and Dissemination of the Local Government Management of Service Delivery Report held on June 19, 2024, the Rt Hon Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja emphasized Uganda's commitment to the 2030 Agenda. The conference took place under

the theme, "Strengthening Localization and Service Delivery Mechanisms for National Development and SDG Acceleration and Transformation," which highlighted the critical role of local governments in achieving sustainable development. The Prime Minister acknowledged the progress made since 2015, noting that while 26.1% of targets are on track, 54.2% show limited progress, and 19.7% are stagnating.

Key initiatives discussed included the Parish Development Model (PDM), aimed at transitioning 39% of Ugandans from subsistence to a money economy, focusing on food security, job creation, and wealth creation. The Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer

(UgIFT) Reform Programme was highlighted as a critical effort to enhance local government efficiency in service delivery.

As Uganda prepared to present its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report at the High-Level Political Forum in New York, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of inclusive development and the need to accelerate SDG implementation. The conference aimed to review local government performance, discuss the PDM, and launch key reports, including the SDG Commitments Implementation Framework and the Midterm SDG Progress Review report 2023.

The Prime Minister called for active participation from all stakeholders to ensure that Uganda's progress towards the SDGs is both comprehensive and inclusive, reinforcing the country's commitment to leaving no one behind. The conference sought to catalyse actions that enhance service delivery, recognize exemplary local government performance, and improve understanding of current strategies, thus ensuring a robust path toward achieving the SDGs by 2030.

### **Presentation on the Voluntary National Review Process by Dr Albert Byamugisha**



*Dr Albert Byamugisha, Head of the SDG Secretariat, presenting the VNR Process June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

implementation in Uganda, which includes the SDG Road Map and several multi-stakeholder Technical Working Groups (TWGs). These mechanisms facilitate the integration of SDGs into

Dr. Albert Byamugisha presented Uganda's third Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This review coincides with the mid-term implementation of the SDGs, providing a comprehensive analysis of Uganda's progress, challenges, and strategies for future action. Dr. Byamugisha outlined the methodology and review process employed in preparing the VNR, which was spearheaded by the SDG Secretariat within the Office of the Prime Minister. The report was grounded in data compiled from national surveys, policy frameworks, and inputs from various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). A multi-stakeholder approach, including consultations with government officials, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, and youth representatives, was integral to the process, ensuring a broad-based and inclusive review.

The presentation highlighted the institutional framework established to coordinate SDG

national policy and planning frameworks, with notable alignment seen in the National Development Plan (NDP) series; NDP II, III, and the forthcoming NDP IV.

Significant progress was reported across various SDGs. For instance, poverty rates have decreased, with the incidence of monetary poverty reducing from 21.4% in 2016/17 to 20.3% in 2019/20. The government's implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM) and social protection programs like the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) and Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) have been pivotal in this progress. Similarly, improvements in child nutrition were noted, with the prevalence of stunting among children under five decreasing from 29% in 2016 to 24% in 2022. In the health sector, Uganda has made strides in reducing maternal and child mortality rates, while also expanding access to specialized healthcare services. Efforts to increase access to quality education were also highlighted, though challenges remain, particularly in achieving gender parity and increasing budget allocations to meet the 20% target of the Dakar commitment. Dr. Byamugisha emphasized the government's commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. He detailed ongoing initiatives, such as the strengthening of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the establishment of parliamentary committees focused on gender issues. The report also discussed the need for improved data collection on gender-related issues to better track progress and inform policy. Addressing environmental sustainability, the presentation covered Uganda's efforts to ensure sustainable management of water and sanitation, promote renewable energy, and combat climate change. Notably, Uganda aims to increase its renewable energy generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 24.7% below business-as-usual levels by 2030. Additionally, the government has initiated reforestation projects and enacted laws to protect wetlands and other critical ecosystems.

Dr. Byamugisha outlined several emerging issues, such as the pressures from hosting over 1.6 million refugees and the impacts of climate change on key sectors like agriculture and infrastructure. These challenges necessitate urgent and comprehensive policy responses to ensure sustainable development.

In concluding, Dr. Byamugisha presented six key commitments for SDG acceleration and transformation. These commitments focus on inclusive growth, innovation, climate-smart investments, and the effective use of data for decision-making. He recommended aligning these commitments with the upcoming NDP IV and enhancing financing mechanisms at both national and local levels. Strengthening partnerships and integrating SDG monitoring into

national statistical frameworks were also emphasized as critical for tracking progress and ensuring accountability.

### **Introductory Remarks by Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister**



*Mr Dunstan Balaba, the Permanent Secretary Office of the Prime Minister, giving introductory remarks on June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

The Permanent Secretary highlighted Uganda's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting significant advancements made through collaborative efforts across various sectors, including Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs), the private sector, local governments, and civil

society groups. However, he acknowledged that while there has been progress, considerable work remains to be done. This conference serves as a critical platform for reflecting on past achievements, discussing challenges, and strategizing for accelerated implementation.

The Permanent Secretary also discussed the outcomes of the Local Government Management of Service Delivery (LGMSD) Performance Assessment, which was conducted as part of the Uganda Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (UgIFT) reform. The assessment, conducted from October 2023 to January 2024, involved a comprehensive evaluation of local government performance indicators. The results indicated steady improvement in service delivery, attributed to capacity-building initiatives and the diligent implementation of Performance Improvement Plans.

The Permanent Secretary expressed gratitude to the UK's Department for International Development (UK Aid), the Overseas Development Institute's Budget Strengthening Initiative (ODI-BSI), and the World Bank for their financial and technical support in designing and implementing the LGMSD assessment framework. He also recognized the contributions of the National SDG Secretariat, the National LGMSD Secretariat, the Taskforce, and development partners, including the UN Country Team, UN Women, Save the Children, and World Vision, in organizing the conference and supporting Uganda's sustainable development initiatives.

Key recommendations from the Permanent Secretary's remarks included the need for continued support and collaboration among all stakeholders to achieve the SDGs. He emphasized the importance of leveraging the Parish Development Model (PDM) to ensure inclusive economic growth and improve service delivery at the local level. Additionally, he called for the

dissemination of the LGMSD assessment findings to enhance transparency and accountability in local governance.

The Permanent Secretary urged participants to actively engage in the discussions and contribute to developing actionable recommendations. He emphasized the role of effective governance, capacity building, and international partnerships in advancing the SDG agenda. The conference is seen as a crucial step in ensuring that Uganda's efforts are aligned with global standards and that the country remains on track to meet its SDG commitments. He reaffirmed Uganda's dedication to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. He called for sustained efforts to address existing challenges and capitalize on opportunities for sustainable development. The outcomes of the conference are expected to significantly influence Uganda's policy landscape, enhancing the country's ability to deliver efficient and effective services, ultimately improving the quality of life for all Ugandans.

### **Presentation on the Local Government Management of Service Delivery Report 2023.**

Mr. Mayanja Gonzaga, Commissioner of Monitoring and Evaluation for Local Governments at the Office of the Prime Minister, presented the results of the Local Government Management of Service Delivery (LGMSD) Performance Assessment.



improvement in local governance, with an increase in the overall performance scores of Local Governments (LGs) from previous years. However, notable challenges persisted in specific areas. For instance, while there was significant progress in education and health sectors, issues such as the timely submission of capitation grants, appraisal

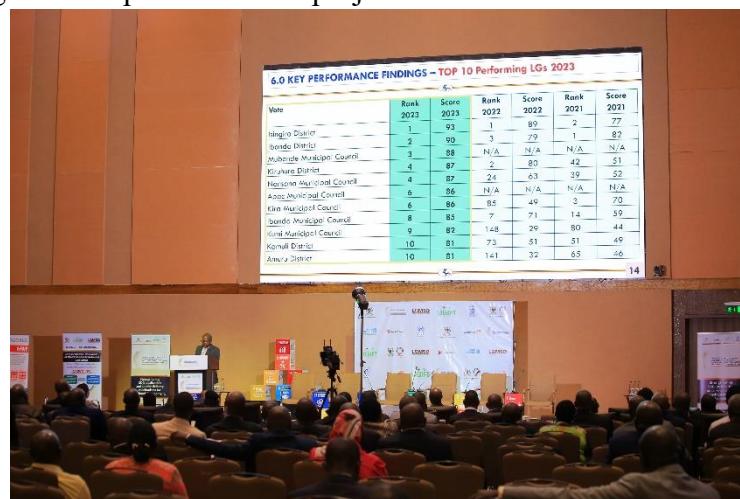
*Mr. Mayanja Gonzaga, Commissioner of Monitoring and Evaluation for Local Governments at the Office of the Prime Minister, presenting the results of the Local Government Management of Service Delivery (LGMSD) Performance Assessment on June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

The assessment, aligned with Uganda's Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer Reforms (IGFTR), aimed to enhance local governance and service delivery through incentivizing best practices and identifying areas for improvement. The assessment covered 135 District Local Governments, 41 City and Municipal Local Governments, and 176 Lower Local Governments (LLGs), focusing on crosscutting sectors such as education, health, water and environment, and micro-scale irrigation. The framework evaluated performance across various indicators, including management capacity, service delivery effectiveness, and adherence to technical standards.

The findings highlighted a general improvement in local governance, with an increase in the overall performance scores of Local Governments (LGs) from previous years. However, notable challenges persisted in specific areas. For instance, while there was significant progress in education and health sectors, issues such as the timely submission of capitation grants, appraisal

of head teachers, and deployment of health workers according to guidelines were identified as key areas needing improvement.

In the water and environment sector, the assessment revealed that many District Local Governments (DLGs) failed to budget and implement water projects in sub-counties below the district average. Additionally, there was inadequate functionality in water and sanitation committees, and a lack of adherence to water abstraction permit regulations. The report recommended comprehensive training for water and sanitation committees and increased vigilance in permit applications. The micro-scale irrigation sector showed a decline in performance, particularly in the recruitment of LLG extension workers and the documentation of irrigation training activities. The assessment recommended revising the farmer co-funding rate and enhancing the capacity of LLGs to develop and implement Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs).



Key crosscutting issues included the low credibility of LLG assessments, with only 31% of LGs conducting credible assessments. The majority of LGs also failed to implement PIPs and audit recommendations promptly. To address these challenges, the report recommended enhancing the capacity of LG staff in performance planning, improving record management systems, and ensuring timely release of Development Discretionary Equalization Grant (DDEG) funds.

The health sector faced challenges with staffing, as only 37% of LGs met the minimum staffing requirements for health centers. Additionally, there were issues with the timely invoicing and communication of health facility transfers. The report called for the expedited rollout of the Human Capital Management Information System (HCMIS) and better oversight of health facilities to ensure compliance with sector guidelines.

In education, the report noted a low rate of improvement in Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) pass rates and inadequate land ownership documentation for school projects. Recommendations included targeted training for primary school teachers, improved school inspections, and fast-tracking the documentation of school land ownership.

The presentation concluded with emerging issues and recommendations for improving LGMSD performance. These included the need for better data management, timely execution of audits, and addressing staffing gaps in critical positions within LGs. The report emphasized the importance of capacity building, timely disbursement of funds, and strengthening governance frameworks to enhance service delivery. The next steps involve reviewing the

LGMSD Assessment Framework to address emerging issues and ensure more effective service delivery. The government plans to disseminate the results to individual LGs and LLGs, encouraging them to develop and implement actionable improvement plans. These efforts aim to strengthen Uganda's local governance structures, improve service delivery, and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **Presentation on the UgIFT Program.**



*Mr. Ishmael Magona, Director Budget, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, presenting Progress of Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer Programme and Use of LGMSD Results to allocate Development Grants to Local Governments for FY2024/25 on June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

UgIFT Program, co-funded by the World Bank and the Government of Uganda (GoU), aims to enhance the adequacy, equity, and effectiveness of financing, oversight, and delivery of local government (LG) services in education, health, water, environment, and micro-irrigation sub-programs. The program also targets refugee-hosting communities, ensuring equitable resource distribution and service delivery across various sectors. Key program interventions at the central government level include improving social service financing, strengthening oversight, and technical support for LGs. At the local government level, the focus has been on enhancing staffing levels, management, monitoring, and infrastructure improvements to meet basic standards. This multi-tiered approach has contributed to significant improvements in service delivery outcomes.

Notable achievements under the UgIFT Program include a 109% nominal growth in financing for critical sectors, increasing from Ushs.1765 billion in FY2017/18 to Ushs.3689 billion in FY2024/25. This growth has facilitated infrastructure development, including the construction and rehabilitation of seed secondary schools, health centers, blood banks, and public water stands. Specifically, 259 seed secondary schools have been targeted, with 105 completed and 144 ongoing, while 371 health centers (HCs) have been upgraded, with 261 completed. Additionally, 418 public water stands have been established, and micro-scale irrigation equipment has been provided to 1601 farmers out of a targeted 4000. The program has also

The Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development presented the performance and outcomes of the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UgIFT) Program. The presentation focused on the Program's development objectives, interventions, achievements, challenges, and the impact of assessment results on grant allocations for the fiscal year 2024/25. The

invested in management information systems (MIS), such as the Teacher Education and Learning Achievements (TELA) system, E-Inspection, Water and Environment MIS (WEMIS), and the Electronic Medical Records System. These systems are critical for generating operational data to guide policy decision-making and improve allocative efficiency in budgeting.

The presentation highlighted that LG overall assessment scores have improved by 15 percentage points from 2020 to 2022, rising from 36% to 51%. The implementation of Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) and adherence to environment and social safeguards (E&S) have contributed to this progress. However, challenges persist, including fiscal constraints, staffing shortages, delays in infrastructure projects, and operationalization of completed facilities. Staffing levels for schools and health facilities are below the program target of 90%, standing at 68% and 66%, respectively. The impact of assessment results on grant allocations was significant, with best-performing LGs receiving increased allocations. For instance, Isingiro District saw a 38% increase in education grants due to their performance. Conversely, least-performing LGs experienced reductions, such as Moroto District, which saw a 41% decrease in health grants.

Recommendations for the next fiscal year include meeting recruitment targets in education and health, operationalizing new and existing facilities, and addressing E&S requirements. The program will also focus on the completion and roll-out of critical MIS systems and the construction of additional infrastructure, such as health centers and schools.

In conclusion, the UgIFT Program has made substantial contributions to improving service delivery across Uganda's LGs. However, continued efforts are necessary to address existing challenges, enhance capacity, and ensure that all citizens benefit equitably from public services. The extension of the UgIFT Program by 18 months, in collaboration with the World Bank, will support the completion of ongoing investments and further strengthen Uganda's local governance and service delivery framework.

## **Presentation by the Ministry of Local Government on the National Dissemination of the Local Government Management of Service Delivery Report 2023.**



*Mr. Benjamin Kumumanya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), presenting the results and insights from the Local Government Management of Service Delivery (LGMSD) Performance Assessment on June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

Mr. Benjamin Kumumanya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), presented the results and insights from the Local Government Management of Service Delivery (LGMSD) Performance Assessment. The presentation focused on the development, implementation, and impact of Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) in Uganda's local governments (LGs). The Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer Programme for

Results (UgIFT) incorporates a Performance Improvement Framework (PIF) that mandates MoLG to support LGs in improving performance across various sectors, including education, health, water and environment, and micro-scale irrigation. The PIF outlines two types of PIPs: LG Specific PIPs for the lowest-performing LGs and Thematic PIPs targeting widespread issues across LGs.

MoLG, with assistance from various ministries such as Finance, Public Service, and Environment, supported 24 Lower Local Governments (LLGs) identified as worst-performing and 29 other LGs needing targeted intervention. The support focused on areas like Own Source Revenue Mobilization and Performance Assessment. Additionally, specific ministries, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF), the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Ministry of Water and Environment, conducted PIP activities in their respective sectors, addressing deficiencies in specific LGs.

The implementation of PIPs resulted in notable performance improvements in several LGs. For instance, Kwania District improved from rank 131 in 2022 to rank 13 in 2023, and other LGs like Serere, Kween, and Kalaki showed significant advancements. These improvements were attributed to effective execution of PIPs, which addressed identified gaps and bolstered LG capacity in critical areas. In the micro-scale irrigation sector, LGs such as Kamuli, Amuru, and Luuka demonstrated substantial improvements, reflecting the positive impact of targeted interventions. The Ministry of Health's PIP activities also yielded enhanced outcomes in health service delivery, with districts like Bugweri and Kapelebyong showing marked progress. Similar positive results were observed in the education and water and environment sectors, where targeted support and interventions led to better resource management and service delivery.

The presentation identified several key lessons from the implementation of PIPs. It was observed that LG performance largely depended on the commitment of political leadership, Accounting Officers, and Technical Planning Committees. LGs that demonstrated strong teamwork and adherence to planned activities tended to perform better in subsequent assessments. The presentation also highlighted challenges such as staffing gaps, delays in implementing planned activities, and technical issues like unreliable network connectivity, particularly in remote areas. LGs with chronic political and administrative conflicts consistently underperformed, indicating the need for targeted support to address underlying issues. Additionally, some LGs failed to fully implement agreed actions in their PIPs, leading to poor performance. The presentation underscored the importance of continuous support and capacity building for LGs, especially those that showed improvement, to maintain and further enhance their performance.

To build on the successes of the PIPs, the MoLG recommended several actions. These included maintaining strong support for well-performing LGs, addressing staffing and operational challenges, and improving systems for timely reporting and data management. The MoLG also emphasized the need for ongoing collaboration among ministries, LGs, and development partners to ensure sustained improvements in service delivery and governance.

The presentation concluded with a call for a sustained, multi-sectoral approach to improve local governance and service delivery in Uganda. The insights and data from the LGMSD Performance Assessment provided a foundation for refining PIPs and ensuring that all citizens benefit from enhanced public services. The outcomes of the PIP implementation underscored the critical role of coordinated efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlighted the need for continued support and innovation in local government management.

## Statement on behalf of the UN Agencies in Uganda: UN Resident Coordinator



*H.E Susan Ngongi Namondo, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, delivering a statement on behalf of the UN Agencies in Uganda on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda.*

H.E Susan Ngongi Namondo, the United Nations Resident Coordinator emphasized the importance of collaboration between the government and non-state actors in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She commended

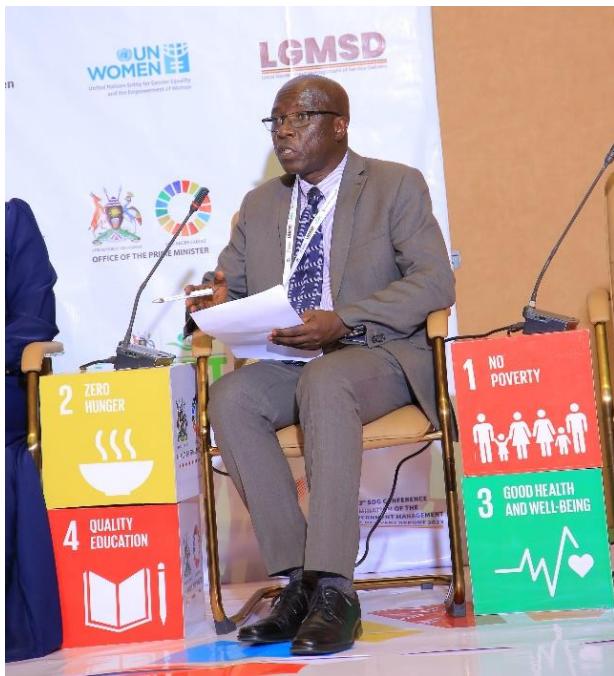
Uganda's commitment to the SDGs, highlighted

by the upcoming Voluntary National Review (VNR) report, which integrates contributions from civil society and the private sector. She stressed the need for a robust domestic revenue mobilization strategy to navigate the challenging development financing landscape, particularly in light of shifting global funding priorities and rising non-concessional borrowing.

Furthermore, she highlighted the critical role of the private sector in driving sustainable growth, as exemplified by the Uganda Bankers' Association's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework and also called for a revitalization of Uganda's decentralization efforts, empowering local authorities to generate revenue and engage in public-private partnerships.

She reiterated the UN system's support for the Parish Development Model (PDM) as a pivotal mechanism for local economic development, advocating for a comprehensive approach that includes all PDM pillars. She called for improved coordination among government ministries, departments, and agencies to enhance the effectiveness of the National Development Plan and ensure meaningful progress towards the SDGs. The UN committed to continued collaboration with the Ugandan government to achieve these shared goals.

## Civil Society statement



Dr Moses Isooba, Executive Director, Uganda National NGO Forum making a statement on behalf of Civil Society in Uganda on June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) presented a comprehensive statement highlighting Uganda's progress and challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The presentation emphasized the government's commitment, through the Office of the Prime Minister, to integrating SDGs into national development plans. Despite these efforts, the CSOs noted slow progress in SDG implementation, particularly in poverty alleviation, healthcare access, and education quality, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

The CSOs acknowledged the mid-term milestone of the SDG implementation and urged a review of commitments made at the 2023 SDG Summit, focusing on "Leaving

No One Behind" and leveraging science, technology, and innovation. They stressed the importance of accelerating efforts to address existing gaps and achieve the 2030 Agenda. Key areas identified for fast-tracking included the Parish Development Model (PDM), aimed at eradicating poverty by transitioning households from subsistence to monetary economies. The CSOs reported challenges in PDM implementation, such as limited transparency, inadequate borrower engagement, and unclear guidelines. They recommended resolving these issues to achieve the PDM's objectives effectively. The CSOs also called for meeting government commitments on the SDG agenda, particularly in the underperforming National Development Plan III (NDPIII). They emphasized the need for a multi-stakeholder approach in planning, budgeting, and implementing the forthcoming NDPIV, which should integrate strategies for addressing SDG-related gaps. The localization of SDGs was highlighted as a critical area, with a focus on strengthening the capacity of local governments to facilitate citizen-led development and effectively mobilize own-source revenue. Climate change financing was identified as another priority, with the CSOs urging the government to allocate more resources to climate-related challenges. They emphasized the importance of integrating climate action into national policies and planning, and advocated for consistent budget allocations at the sub-national level to address climate-related disasters. The CSOs underscored the importance of leveraging quality and disaggregated data for effective planning, budgeting, and monitoring of SDG progress. They called for a harmonized data collection mechanism and the dissemination of SDG information in accessible formats. The role of citizen-generated data was highlighted as crucial for increasing data availability and utilization, thereby improving development outcomes.

In conclusion, the CSOs expressed their readiness to collaborate with the government in achieving the 2030 Agenda. They reiterated the need for inclusive development processes that leave no one behind, ensuring that all Ugandans benefit from the country's progress towards sustainable development. The statement concluded with a call for continued leadership and commitment from the government, alongside robust partnerships with all stakeholders, to accelerate SDG implementation and create a better future for all.

### Statement by the Inter-Religious Council (IRCU)



*Apostle Dr. Joseph Serwadda delivering a statement on behalf of the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) on June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

Apostle Dr. Joseph Serwadda delivered a statement on behalf of the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU). He emphasized the critical role of faith-based organizations in advancing the SDGs and fostering socio-economic transformation in Uganda.

Dr. Serwadda outlined the six pillars from the IRCU's Envisioning Process in 2012, which align closely with the SDGs: a God-fearing nation, a healthy nation, a secure and stable nation, a prosperous nation, a harmonious nation, and a caring nation. He highlighted IRCU's efforts in mobilizing faith communities to transition from subsistence to commercial production, thereby addressing poverty and hunger in alignment with SDG 1. In the public health sector, IRCU has been instrumental in delivering integrated sexual and reproductive health (SRH), HIV, and gender-based violence

(GBV) services. This initiative aligns with several SDG targets, particularly those related to health and well-being. The IRCU also utilizes its platforms for promoting transparency, accountability, and social justice, thereby enhancing community awareness and advocating for policies that support sustainable development. Education was another focus, where IRCU advocated for policies that promote quality and equitable education. The organization has been active in using religious platforms to educate followers on their role in achieving the SDGs, thus fostering a knowledgeable and proactive community.

Furthermore, the IRCU's peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts contribute to social cohesion, a cornerstone for inclusive development and sustainable progress. Dr. Serwadda emphasized the importance of partnerships, highlighting IRCU's collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister and other governmental and non-governmental entities. Notably, IRCU's partnership with the GRO-Foundation aims to implement a 15-year afforestation/reforestation program targeting the planting of 250 million trees, leveraging climate financing to promote SDGs and social impact goals. IRCU also mobilizes resources, including funding and in-kind contributions from faith communities and donors, to support local SDG projects. These efforts

include the Household Economic Transformation Initiative (HETI), inter-religious Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs), and community mobilization initiatives under the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development.

Dr. Serwadda concluded by reaffirming the crucial role of faith communities in localizing the SDGs and enhancing service delivery, thus contributing significantly to national development. He emphasized the unique influence of faith-based organizations in mobilizing resources, changing mindsets, and promoting sustainable practices, thereby ensuring no one is left behind in Uganda's development journey. The statement underscored the IRCU's commitment to continuing its work in partnership with government and other stakeholders to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Statement on behalf of Local Governments by the President ULGA, Mr. Richard Rwabuhinga**



*Mr. Richard Rwabuhinga, President of the Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA), delivering a statement emphasizing the critical role of local governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

transformation.

Rwabuhinga outlined ULGA's efforts in mobilizing communities, enhancing local revenue generation, and fostering public-private partnerships to support SDG implementation. He also addressed the challenges faced by local governments, including the lack of transport and resources for monitoring government programs, and the need for better remuneration and support for local leaders. He called for improved coordination between the central and local governments, particularly in communication and decision-making processes.

The statement emphasized the need for lifting recruitment bans to address staffing shortages and improve service delivery. Rwabuhinga emphasized the importance of local governments in achieving national development goals and urged the central government to support initiatives

Mr. Richard Rwabuhinga, President of the Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA), delivered a statement emphasizing the critical role of local governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He highlighted the Parish Development Model (PDM) as a key initiative for transforming subsistence households into a monetized economy, thereby enhancing community resilience and socio-economic

that enhance local capacity and autonomy. He concluded by reaffirming ULGA's commitment to implementing the SDGs and improving service delivery at the grassroots level.

### Statement by youth



Ms. Aminah Nassali, the President of the Uganda Youth Coalition on the SDGs, making a youth statement on June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda

entrepreneurship. Emphasizing gender equality, Aminah stressed the importance of empowering young women through education, leadership training, and business support. On healthcare, she underscored the importance of youth-friendly services, noting alarming HIV infection rates among adolescents. She advocated for mobile health clinics and health education campaigns. For agricultural innovation, she promoted modern farming techniques, youth cooperatives, and sustainable practices to ensure food security. Aminah also called for good governance through meaningful youth participation in policymaking and anti-corruption education. She highlighted technology and innovation as essential for development, urging support for tech hubs and training in emerging technologies. Emphasizing infrastructure, she advocated for improved internet connectivity, transportation, and community resources. On environmental conservation, Aminah urged youth engagement in climate action and renewable

At the 3rd Uganda Annual SDG Conference, Aminah Nassali, a youth representative, articulated a comprehensive youth-centric perspective on accelerating socio-economic transformation by 2030. She emphasized the critical role of youth in driving sustainable development and outlined ten key action areas: access to quality education, youth employment and entrepreneurship, gender equality, healthcare access, agricultural innovation, good governance, technology and innovation, infrastructure development, environmental conservation, and regional and global partnerships.

She highlighted the need for quality education and skills development, pointing out that 22% of adolescents have left school and advocating for scholarships, practical training, and digital literacy. Addressing youth unemployment, she called for youth-specific funding, mentorship, and incubation programs to foster

energy initiatives. Finally, she emphasized the importance of regional and global partnerships to address local challenges with innovative solutions.

Aminah concluded by affirming the commitment of the Youth Coalition for SDGs to ensuring that no youth is left behind, calling on all stakeholders to empower young people and harness their potential for a brighter future.

### **Statement from Children**



*Ali Mulagwe, a Senior One student from Kasokoso Secondary School in Buikwe District, presented a statement on SDG 4 on behalf of children June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

Ali Mulagwe, a Senior One student from Kasokoso Secondary School in Buikwe District, presented a statement on SDG 4, which focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. Mulagwe highlighted several challenges children face in accessing education, including high school fees, lack of meals, distance from schools, excessive homework, and food

insecurity at home.

He emphasized that many children are unable to complete primary or secondary education due to these barriers. Mulagwe recommended several measures to address these issues: reducing school fees and requirements, ensuring all children receive meals at school regardless of payment, providing school transportation for those living far from schools, constructing more schools within communities, reducing homework loads, and supporting parents with sustainable agricultural practices to secure a continuous food supply.

Mulagwe's statement emphasized the critical need for comprehensive and supportive educational policies to ensure all children in Uganda have equal opportunities to learn and succeed. He called on the government and partners to take decisive actions to remove barriers to education and promote a supportive learning environment for all children. His advocacy highlighted the importance of addressing the practical challenges that hinder children's access

to quality education, aligning with the broader goals of the SDGs to leave no one behind in the pursuit of sustainable development.

### **High Level Panel Discussion: Key actions to accelerate socio-economic transformation by 2030.**



*High Level Panel Discussion: Key actions to accelerate socio-economic transformation by 2030 on June 19, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

**Panelist 3: Mr. Antonio Querido, FAO Country Representative in Uganda**

**Panelist 4: Ms. Antonia Ngabala Sodonon UN Women Special Representative & Head of Liaison to the African Union Commission, and the Economic Commission for Africa**

**Moderator:** Dr. Fred Muhumuza, Director, MUBS Economics Forum/Senior Lecturer Department of Economics Makerere University

**Panelist 1:** Prof Pamela Mbabazi Chairperson National Planning Authority

**Panelist 2:** Mr. Godwin Kakama; Commissioner, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development



**Prof. Pamela Mbabazi, Chairperson of the National Planning Authority**, expounded on the strategic objectives of Uganda's Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV). She emphasized the plan's focus on achieving a double-digit growth rate through several critical pillars: sustainably increasing productivity and production, enhancing value addition, fostering human capital development, and bolstering the private sector's role in job creation and economic growth. Prof. Mbabazi articulated the need for substantial investments in infrastructure development, underlining its significance in facilitating economic activities and supporting sustainable growth. She highlighted the importance of enhancing human capital by improving education and healthcare systems, which are crucial for a skilled and healthy workforce. The NDP IV also stresses the necessity of strengthening good governance, security, and the state's role in creating a conducive environment for economic activities.

The discussion underscored the private sector's role in driving innovation and economic diversification. The NDP IV aims to create a robust ecosystem for private sector growth by providing adequate support and addressing critical bottlenecks such as infrastructure deficits and regulatory challenges.

Prof. Mbabazi recommended the effort to enhance public-private partnerships, advocating for policy reforms that encourage private investment in key sectors. She also emphasized the need for comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress and ensure the efficient implementation of the NDP IV. Furthermore, she called for a focus on environmental sustainability, suggesting that economic growth should not come at the expense of the environment. Prof. Mbabazi urged stakeholders to integrate climate resilience and sustainability measures into all development initiatives, ensuring long-term socio-economic stability.

**Mr. Godwin Kakama, Commissioner from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED)**, outlined Uganda's strategic economic objectives and policy directions. He emphasized the target of expanding Uganda's GDP to USD 500 billion by 2030, highlighting the recent growth from UGX 187 trillion to UGX 202 trillion. Kakama underscored the critical need to bolster the services, agriculture, and industry sectors, aiming for a balanced and diversified economic development. Key areas of focus include maintaining low inflation rates, investing in critical infrastructure such as tourism, health, education, energy, transport, and ICT, and creating a conducive environment for private sector growth. The government's agenda includes promoting exports and supporting agro-industrialization, manufacturing, and various financial initiatives like the Parish Development Model (PDM) and the Agricultural Credit Facility. These initiatives aim to enhance production and facilitate access to credit by lowering commercial lending rates, thus stimulating investment. The strategic direction under the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV) focuses on four pillars: agro-industrialization, tourism, mineral development (including oil and gas), and Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI), with a particular emphasis on Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT). These focus areas are envisioned to drive socio-economic transformation, lay a solid foundation for sustained economic growth, and bolster resource mobilization.

Kakama highlighted the government's robust Domestic Revenue Mobilization Strategy, which aims for a 0.5% annual increase in revenue. Efforts include expanding the tax base, ensuring business growth, and implementing systems like the Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing Solution (EFRIS) to simplify revenue collection. Measures are also in place to reduce tax avoidance and evasion, particularly at the local governance level. The development of Public Investment Financing Strategies seeks to tap into both traditional and non-traditional funding sources, ultimately aiming to enhance production capacities and broaden the tax base. Kakama's presentation reiterated the importance of a holistic approach to economic development, emphasizing the need for policy coherence, infrastructure investment, and inclusive economic policies to achieve Uganda's ambitious growth targets and socio-economic transformation.

**Ms. Antonia Ngabala Sodonon UN Women Special Representative & Head of Liaison to the African Union Commission, and the Economic Commission for Africa**

## DAY 2

### High Level Panel Discussion: Local actions and partnerships driving community development.



High Level Panel Discussion: Local actions and partnerships driving community development on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda

Akorikin District Chairperson, Kapelebyong

Panelist 4: Ms. Grace Nyoro, Director of Advocacy and Communications at Save the Children Uganda

**Hon. Ssozi Galabuzi, the National Coordinator of the Parish Development Model (PDM) at the Ministry of Local Government**, clarified that PDM is not merely a financial initiative but a comprehensive strategy aiming to make parishes the focal points of growth. He emphasized the importance of the ICT sector in enhancing data collection and digital monitoring, noting that each pillar of PDM will be integrated into the Parish Development Model Management Information System (PDMIS). This locally developed system is crucial for tracking progress and ensuring service delivery at the grassroots level. Hon. Galabuzi highlighted the necessity of leveraging local government collaboration to gather success stories from PDM beneficiaries. He stressed the need to activate agricultural processing facilities and engage the private sector to facilitate the movement of local produce to domestic and international markets. He underscored that the PDMIS would streamline data collection, thus supporting effective monitoring and evaluation of the activities under each pillar of the PDM.

The main discussions during the panel focused on dispelling misconceptions about PDM and reinforcing its role as a multifaceted strategy. The panel underscored the importance of robust ICT infrastructure for data management and the critical role of local governments in promoting agricultural value addition and market access. Recommendations included enhancing private sector participation, particularly in agricultural processing and marketing, to boost local and international trade opportunities. The discussions called for continuous development and

**Moderator:** Prof Eria Hisali, Makerere University

**Panelists:**

Panelist 1: Hon. Galabuzi Ssozi, PDM Coordinator, Ministry of Local Government

Panelist 2: Mr. Richard Rumsey Program Quality Director, World Vision

Panelist 3: Mr. Francis

utilization of the PDMIS to improve data accuracy and facilitate informed decision-making. The discussions highlighted the need for comprehensive stakeholder engagement, emphasizing the PDM as a strategy for sustainable development and socio-economic transformation at the grassroots level. Another recommendation focused on strengthening ICT infrastructure, promoting agricultural value addition, and enhancing data-driven decision-making to achieve the overarching goals of the PDM.

**Mr. Francis Akorikin, District Chairperson of Kapelebyong**, articulated the enthusiasm and expectations surrounding the Parish Development Model (PDM) during his panel discussion. He highlighted the model's potential to elevate citizens from poverty and subsistence farming to a monetized economy through increased production. Mr. Akorikin emphasized the necessity of fully implementing all PDM pillars, ensuring they receive equal attention to maximize impact. He raised concerns about the emerging issue of local parish SACCO leaders failing to account for funds allocated for disbursement, calling for stricter oversight and accountability measures. Furthermore, he recommended that the distribution of funds under PDM should be proportional to the number of households in each parish, ensuring fair and effective resource allocation. Mr. Akorikin's insights underscore the importance of comprehensive and transparent management in the PDM's implementation to meet the high expectations and drive socio-economic transformation.

**Mr. Richard Ramsey, Programme Quality Director at World Vision Uganda**, shared insights into World Vision's extensive experience in community development and supporting vulnerable populations. Ramsey emphasized the critical importance of the "Leaving No One Behind" principle as the SDGs near their implementation deadline, advocating for prioritizing the most marginalized communities.

World Vision Uganda has been implementing a household cluster approach similar to the Parish Development Model (PDM), effectively transitioning people from subsistence to a market economy. This method includes collaboration with local governments, training Village Health Teams, and enhancing agricultural extension services. Ramsey noted that World Vision's multi-faceted approach not only addresses economic challenges but also focuses on mindset transformation, inclusivity, and active citizen engagement through the Citizen's Voice in Action Model. This engagement has led to improved service delivery and heightened community involvement.

Furthermore, World Vision's emphasis on economic inclusion involves educating beneficiaries on financial literacy, savings, and business skills. Ramsey highlighted the potential synergies between World Vision's work and the PDM, suggesting that these collaborations could enhance local governance and economic growth.

He recommended:

1. Improving Agricultural Value Chains: There is a need to enhance the infrastructure and systems for evacuating agricultural produce to both domestic and international markets. This will help local producers gain better market access and improve their livelihoods.

2. Timely Information for Local Governments: Ramsey stressed the importance of providing local governments with timely information about developments in the PDM. This foresight will enable better planning and execution of activities, ensuring effective service delivery.
3. Engagement with Local Leaders: It is crucial to involve local leaders in communicating policy prescriptions promptly. This will ensure that policies are understood and implemented effectively at the grassroots level, fostering better governance and community trust.

**Ms. Grace Nyoro, Director of Advocacy and Communications at Save the Children Uganda**, articulated the organization's vision and strategic interventions. Representing Country Director Dragana Strinic, Nyoro emphasized the goal that by 2030, no child should die from preventable causes, all children should access education, and violence against children should be eradicated. Save the Children's initiatives align with Uganda's National Development Plan III, focusing on education, child health, and protection. Nyoro highlighted their collaboration with the Ministry of Education to enhance teacher professional development and tackle barriers to quality education. This includes investing in early childhood development, specifically in literacy and numeracy skills. In child health, Save the Children has noted improvements in access to age-appropriate sex education, integrated newborn healthcare, and developed strategic documents such as manuals for strengthening health systems through Village Health Teams (VHTs). Collaborating with the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, they aim to reinforce child protection structures to ensure rapid response when children are violated. A significant aspect of their work involves promoting mindset change through community engagement. This includes empowering children and their families to engage parents, who are key influencers in accessing services like education. Nyoro emphasized the organization's commitment to an inclusive approach, ensuring that no child is left behind. Save the Children advocates for evidence-based strategies to inform the National Development Plan IV and support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The panelist recommended a continued focus on integrating child protection measures into national frameworks, enhancing collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners, and promoting community-based initiatives that encourage parental involvement in child welfare and education. Additionally, Nyoro called for sustained investment in early childhood development and health systems to build resilient, child-friendly communities.

## Video Presentation of SDGs Implementation in Uganda

The video was presented to the President for review and approval to be presented at the High

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**Uganda's Journey to Economic Growth, Social...**

**Uganda's Video Presentation of the Third Voluntary...**

Level Political Forum in New York in July 2024 when Uganda would be presenting her third Voluntary National Review Report

Watch the video via: [Uganda's Third VNR Video Presentation](#)

This SDG journey Video was presented at the High Level Political Forum during the Presentation of Uganda's third VNR on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024. It served as an informative and engaging medium to convey Uganda's experiences, successes, and ongoing efforts in the realm of sustainable development. It will be the audio-visual representation of the third VNR 2024.

The purpose of the Video was to;

- i. **Raise Awareness and Understanding:** The documentary aims to increase public awareness and understanding of Uganda's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its progress in their implementation.
- ii. **Showcase Successes and Ongoing Efforts:** The documentary highlights successful initiatives, projects, and policies that have contributed to sustainable development. It also spotlights the country's commitment to continuous progress and innovation in the realm of sustainability.
- iii. **Inspire Global Engagement:** The documentary is designed to inspire not only local but also global engagement in sustainable development.

## Remarks by Minister of Local Government on PDM Implementation, Hon Raphael Magyezi



*Hon. Raphael Magyezi, Minister for Local Government, presenting an overview of the Parish Development Model (PDM) on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda.*

economic growth.

Significant progress has been made, including the establishment of Parish Development Committees and SACCOs, the deployment of Parish Chiefs, and the creation of digital infrastructure for data collection and financial management. The PDM's implementation has already impacted many households, particularly in sectors like agriculture, where beneficiaries have engaged in enterprise investments in crops, livestock, and poultry.

The PDM's challenges include the need for market expansion for increased production, continuous mindset training to fully embrace the PDM's holistic approach, and enhanced internet connectivity to support digital infrastructure. The presentation underscored the government's commitment to ensuring the PDM's success as a key component of Uganda's socio-economic transformation and its contribution to achieving the SDGs. The initiative aims to foster a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for all Ugandans, leaving no one behind.

Hon. Raphael Magyezi, Minister for Local Government, presented an overview of the Parish Development Model (PDM), emphasizing its alignment with Uganda's National Resistance Movement (NRM) ideology and the broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The PDM, launched in 2022, operates as a comprehensive "Whole-of-Government" strategy to boost household incomes and improve service delivery at the parish level. The model focuses on seven pillars: Agricultural Value-Chain Development, Infrastructure and Economic Services, Financial Inclusion, Social Services, Community Mobilization and Mindset Change, Parish-Based Management Information Systems, and Governance and Administration. These pillars collectively aim to eradicate poverty, enhance food security, and promote sustainable

## Statement by the Chief Convener, the Rt. Hon Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja and inviting the Chief Guest



*The Rt Hon Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja delivering a comprehensive address when H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda arrived at the conference on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda.*

Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja delivered a comprehensive address when H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda arrived at the conference, highlighting Uganda's progress and challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She acknowledged the significant role of local governments and the ongoing efforts in implementing the Parish

Development Model (PDM), which aims to uplift 39% of Ugandans from subsistence farming to a money economy.

The Prime Minister detailed Uganda's readiness to present its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the upcoming High-Level Political Forum, emphasizing that the report would reflect the country's socio-economic transformation journey. She highlighted key areas such as local government service delivery, which includes the assessment of higher and lower local governments, service delivery centers, and the implementation of climate-adaptive facilities. Nabbanja addressed the critical need for addressing staffing shortages in local governments, noting that average staffing levels were at 57% for districts and 52% for municipalities. She called for lifting the recruitment ban to fill these gaps, particularly in essential services such as healthcare and education. Additionally, she pointed out the need for wage enhancements for various local government officials, including District Chairpersons and Mayors, to improve their operational capacity.

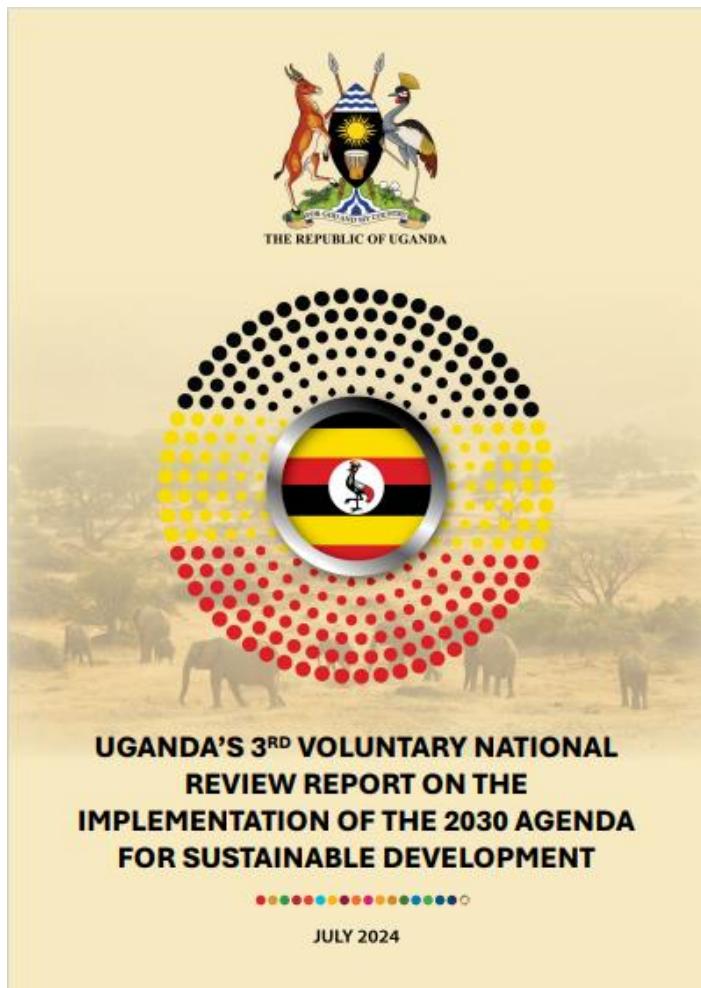
The Prime Minister commended the allocation of UGX 1 billion for road maintenance, which is crucial for improving connectivity and facilitating trade. She acknowledged the challenges faced by underperforming districts, such as Namisindwa, due to inadequate human resources and infrastructure, particularly in healthcare. Lastly, Nabbanja reiterated the government's commitment to fighting corruption and enhancing transparency in public service delivery. She urged local government leaders to support these efforts and highlighted the importance of collaboration with development partners, such as UN Women and Save the Children, in organizing the conference and advancing the SDG agenda.

The Prime Minister's address underscored the government's dedication to accelerating sustainable development, improving local governance, and ensuring that all Ugandans benefit from national progress.

### **Launch of Reports**

#### **Uganda's Voluntary National Review Report**

Read full VNR Report via: [Uganda's Third Voluntary National Review Report 2024](#)



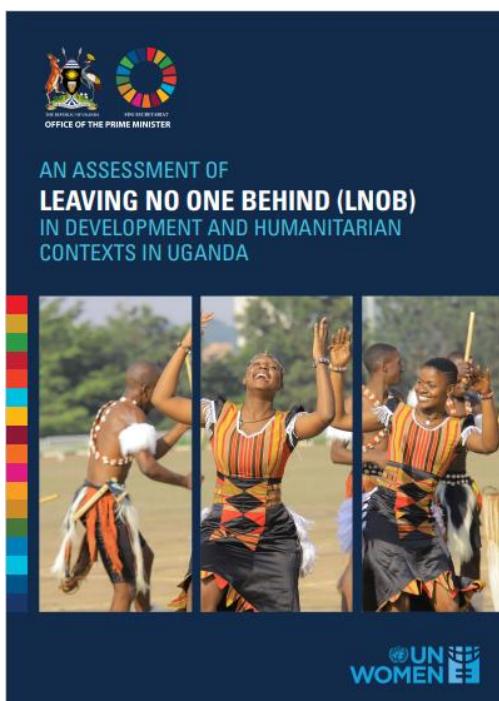
This year, Uganda was among the 37 Countries that presented their Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports. Uganda was presenting a third review report having presented the first and second in 2016 and 2020 respectively. The VNR report was developed through a consultative process including Civil Society Organizations, private sector, academia, youth organizations. The participation was also informed by the SDG Summit commitments in which Uganda developed six transformative actions. These commitments focus on actions to accelerate: (i) Leaving No One Behind agenda through the inclusive Parish Development Model (ii) inclusive actions for trade financing and climate-smart investments; (iii) leveraging science, technology, and innovation; (iv) inclusive economic and social development through climate change adaptation and mitigation; (v) harnessing the full potential of data and (vi) strengthening SDG coordination and service delivery mechanisms. Additionally, national level actions including sharing the outcomes of the third SDG conference and the Parish Development Model implementation and other local actions coordinated by different MDAs informed Uganda's participation.

adaptation and mitigation; (v) harnessing the full potential of data and (vi) strengthening SDG coordination and service delivery mechanisms. Additionally, national level actions including sharing the outcomes of the third SDG conference and the Parish Development Model implementation and other local actions coordinated by different MDAs informed Uganda's participation.



H.E the President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, while launching the VNR report and the LNOB Assessment Report on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda.

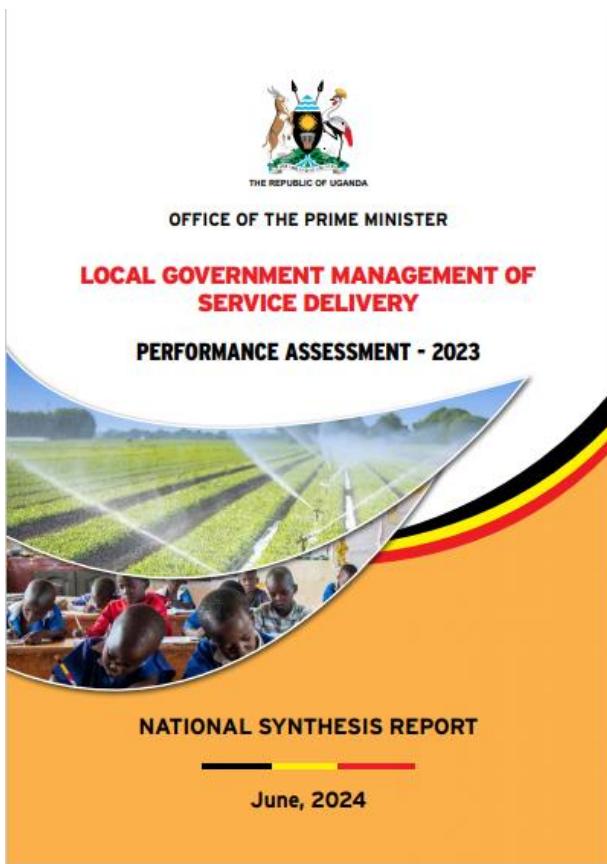
## **The Leave No One Behind National Assessment Report 2024: Uganda's Commitment to Inclusive Development**



Read the Full report via: [Uganda's Leave No One Behind Report 2024](#)

Uganda's progress in inclusive development is exemplified by the publication of the 2024 "Leave No One Behind" (LNOB) report, a critical analysis conducted by the SDG Secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with UN Women Uganda. The report highlights structural inequalities affecting marginalized groups, using comprehensive qualitative and quantitative methodologies across 15 districts. It underscores the importance of enhanced data collection, robust social protection systems, inclusive economic policies, and equitable access to education, healthcare, and employment, emphasizing the need for collaboration among government, civil society, and international partners.

## **The Local Government Management of Service Delivery Report 2023**



Assessment, Health facility assessment; and assessment. OPM has commenced on the process of developing a harmonized framework for the 2024 assessment. This report therefore provides findings on performance of all the 176 LGs in 2023, identifies issues constraining service delivery in LGs and proposes recommendations to address them. The focus is to ensure that resources transferred to LGs and service delivery centres are objectively distributed, utilized and effectively accounted for by the duty bearers. As a result of the concerted efforts by the stakeholders and line Ministries, there has been an improvement in overall performance of LGs for the last 4 years of the LGMSD assessment. There was an improvement in overall average performance for LGs to 57% in 2023 compared to 51% in 2022, 44% in 2021 and 36% in 2020 respectively. This is mainly attributed to improved performance in minimum conditions which largely focus on staffing, environmental and social safeguards; as well as capacity building efforts to LGs. Special gratitude goes to the Local Government

Office of the Prime Minister coordinates one of the components of the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer (UgIFT) Reform which is the Local Government Management of Service Delivery (LGMSD) Performance Assessment. The assessment is aimed at attaining the third objective of the UgIFT Programme by providing incentives for improved institutional and service delivery performance at Local Government (LG) level. The 2023 assessment was the fourth and final edition under the current LGMSD framework. The assessment framework that started in 2017 was revised in 2020 arising out of the lessons learned and close consultations with Local Governments and relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies. To date, new areas have been incorporated into the framework including; Lower Local Government (LLG) assessment, School Performance

Local Climate Adaptive Living (LoCAL)



H.E the President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, while launching the Local Government Management of Service Delivery Report 2023 on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda.

Performance Assessment Taskforce, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Development Partners and Local Government Representatives who have contributed tremendously to the design and implementation of the LGMSD framework. OPM also acknowledges the financial and technical support from the UK Aid/ODI-BSI and the World Bank towards the design and implementation of the framework.

**Recognition and award of best performing Local Governments**  
**The best performing districts were awarded in the following order,**



*H.E the President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni poses for a photo with leaders from the three best performing Local Governments that is Isingiro District, Ibanda District and Mubende Municipality on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda.*

**1. Isingiro District**



*The Rt Hon Prime Minister, Robinah Nabbanja presents an award to the leaders of the best performing Local Government, Isingiro District on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda.*

## **2. Ibanda District**



*The Rt Hon Prime Minister, Robinah Nabbanja presents an award to the leaders of the second best performing Local Government, Ibanda District on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda.*

## **3. Mubende Municipality**



*The Rt Hon Prime Minister, Robinah Nabbanja presents an award to the leaders of the third best performing district, Mubende Municipality on June 20, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda*

## Policy Recommendations to Accelerate SDG Implementation

Key recommendations include:

1. Enhancing Domestic Revenue Mobilization: It was emphasized that Uganda must strengthen its domestic revenue mobilization strategies, expanding the tax base, improving tax collection mechanisms, and reducing tax evasion. The integration of systems like the Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing Solution (EFRIS) was highlighted as critical for simplifying revenue collection and expanding the tax base, particularly at the local governance level.
2. Investing in Critical Infrastructure: There was a strong call for substantial investments in infrastructure development, particularly in transport, energy, and ICT sectors. These investments are vital for supporting economic activities, enhancing connectivity, and fostering industrialization. The discussions underscored the importance of leveraging public-private partnerships to overcome infrastructure deficits and create an enabling environment for private sector growth.
3. Promoting Inclusive Economic Policies: The conference highlighted the need for policies that promote inclusive growth, especially through the agricultural sector. It was recommended that agro-industrialization be prioritized, focusing on enhancing value addition, increasing agricultural productivity, and ensuring food security. The need for a robust extension service system was emphasized to support farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge.
4. Strengthening Governance and Institutional Frameworks: Effective governance and strong institutional frameworks were identified as crucial for the successful implementation of the SDGs. Recommendations included enhancing transparency and accountability mechanisms, improving coordination between central and local governments, and ensuring that local governments have the capacity and autonomy to deliver services effectively.
5. Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability: The discussions underscored the urgent need for integrating climate resilience and sustainability into all development initiatives. The recommendations stressed the importance of policies that address climate change, protect natural resources, and promote the use of renewable energy. It was noted that the agriculture sector must adopt sustainable practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate environmental degradation.
6. Leveraging Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI): It was recommended that Uganda invest significantly in science, technology, and innovation. This includes improving digital infrastructure, fostering tech innovation hubs, and promoting digital literacy. The use of technology in improving data collection and monitoring SDG progress was also emphasized as critical for informed decision-making.
7. Focus on Human Capital Development: The conference highlighted the importance of investing in human capital through education and healthcare improvements. Policies should aim at enhancing access to quality education, promoting gender equality, and improving healthcare services. There was a call for increased budget allocations to these sectors to build a skilled and healthy workforce, which is essential for sustainable development.

8. Strengthening Data Systems for Monitoring and Accountability: The establishment of robust data systems was recommended to monitor progress and ensure accountability in SDG implementation. The need for reliable and disaggregated data was highlighted, along with the importance of citizen-generated data in complementing official statistics. These data systems are crucial for tracking SDG indicators and informing policy decisions.
9. Empowering Youth and Marginalized Groups: The recommendations included specific strategies for empowering youth and marginalized groups. This involves creating more opportunities for youth engagement in economic activities, providing education and training, and ensuring that development policies are inclusive and equitable. There was a particular emphasis on the role of young people in driving innovation and social change.
10. Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: The importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships was reiterated, highlighting the need for collaboration between government, private sector, civil society, and international partners. Such partnerships are essential for mobilizing resources, sharing expertise, and implementing SDG-related projects effectively.

## **Conference Outcomes**

The Third Uganda Annual SDG Conference, held on June 19-20, 2024, produced several significant outcomes, emphasizing the integration of SDG and Agenda 2063 objectives. The conference underscored Uganda's improved ranking in SDG implementation and the importance of aligning national efforts with global sustainable development frameworks. Key discussions highlighted Uganda's mid-term progress in achieving the SDGs, with particular focus on the effective implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM) and the Uganda Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer (UgIFT) Reform Programme.

## **Key Initiatives and Discussions:**

1. Parish Development Model (PDM): The PDM was recognized as a vital initiative for transitioning 39% of Ugandans from subsistence to a monetized economy, emphasizing food security, job creation, and wealth generation. The conference acknowledged challenges in implementing PDM pillars, such as market access and the need for comprehensive digital infrastructure.
2. Local Government Service Delivery: The Local Government Management of Service Delivery (LGMSD) Performance Assessment highlighted improvements in local governance. The report showed increased performance scores among Local Governments (LGs), though challenges remained in specific sectors, such as health and education. Recommendations included enhancing staffing levels, improving data management, and addressing budgetary constraints.
3. Uganda Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer Programme (UgIFT): The UgIFT program's achievements were noted, including significant growth in financing for key sectors and the completion of infrastructure projects. However, challenges like fiscal

constraints and staffing shortages were acknowledged. Recommendations focused on enhancing MIS systems and operationalizing new facilities.

4. Voluntary National Review (VNR): Uganda's third VNR report, presented at the High-Level Political Forum, highlighted significant progress in poverty reduction, health, and education. The report emphasized the need for continued focus on gender equality, environmental sustainability, and data-driven decision-making.
5. Stakeholder Engagement: The conference stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement, including contributions from civil society, youth, and religious organizations. These groups emphasized the need for inclusive policies, particularly in addressing the needs of marginalized populations.
6. Private Sector and Development Partnerships: The critical role of the private sector in achieving SDG targets was highlighted. Discussions focused on enhancing public-private partnerships and leveraging private sector resources for sustainable development.

### **Recommendations and Future Directions:**

1. Investment in Key Sectors: Emphasis was placed on increasing investments in infrastructure, agriculture, education, and health. The need for innovative financing mechanisms and efficient governance structures was highlighted to ensure sustainable economic growth.
2. Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability: The conference called for robust measures to address climate change and environmental degradation. It underscored the importance of integrating climate resilience into all development strategies.
3. Strengthening Local Governance: Recommendations included enhancing the capacity of local governments, improving service delivery, and ensuring effective resource allocation. The importance of addressing corruption and improving transparency in governance was also emphasized.
4. Data and Monitoring: The need for improved data collection and utilization was highlighted, with a call for harmonized data systems and real-time information for better planning and decision-making.

### **Conclusion**

The 3rd Uganda Annual SDG Conference, held on June 19-20, 2024, demonstrated Uganda's steadfast dedication to sustainable development, guided by the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The conference celebrated substantial socio-economic advancements driven by collaborative efforts among government, civil society, and international partners. Central to the discussions was the Parish Development Model (PDM), highlighted for its critical role in transitioning households from subsistence economies to monetized frameworks, thereby enhancing infrastructure and fostering inclusive growth. The conference's high-level presentations, including the third Voluntary National Review (VNR) and the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Assessment Report, detailed Uganda's notable progress and challenges in the realization of the SDGs. The VNR underscored achievements in poverty alleviation, education, healthcare, and gender equity, while also identifying persistent gaps in environmental sustainability and

governance. Thematic panel discussions emphasized the necessity of localizing SDG initiatives, augmenting agricultural productivity through agro-industrialization, and leveraging public-private partnerships. The discourse underscored the critical need for significant investments in infrastructure, particularly in energy, transport, and ICT, as essential foundations for economic growth and global competitiveness.

Concluding the conference was a resolute call for enhanced governance, bolstered partnerships, and innovative financial solutions to expedite SDG achievement. It accentuated the importance of political stability, effective governance, and regional integration as fundamental to sustainable development. The unveiling of key reports and recognition of exemplary local governments reaffirmed Uganda's unwavering commitment to the SDGs, striving for an inclusive and sustainable future. The conference's outcomes are poised to shape Uganda's strategic contributions to forthcoming global forums, reinforcing its proactive engagement in the global sustainable development discourse.

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