

Statement

By

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At

Development Cooperation Forum High-level Symposium

**Kampala, Uganda
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Your Excellency Mr. oh Jooh, President of the Economic and Social Council, United Nations

Your Excellency Mr. Wu Hongho, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social affairs, United Nations

Honourable Ministers,

Heads of Missions and Diplomatic Corps

Honourable Members of Parliament

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to join you today as we come to the end of this symposium – the first of its kind since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I have a particular attachment to this symposium given the significance of the SDGs and Agenda 2030 for Uganda’s Development Agenda and the need for us to continue engaging in the regional and global development processes. The selection of Uganda to host this symposium demonstrates the International Community’s confidence in Uganda, which was also demonstrated by the election of Uganda for the Presidency of the 69th United Nations General Assembly.

In my interaction with a number of you since this morning, I have noted that in last three days you have had elaborate deliberation on several issues, particularly with regard to the implications of the SDGs, and Agenda 2030, for existing Country Results Frameworks (CRFs); Development Cooperation Policies and Partnerships; and the formulation of national development priorities.

It is very comforting that, unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs are not only transformative, i.e. addressing the underlying causes of underdevelopment, but they are also universal since they assign equal responsibility to the rich and poor countries alike. To that end, the SDGs will go a long way to facilitate creation of more mutually beneficial and healthy development cooperation and partnerships at the local, national, and global level.

In the case of Uganda, the SDGs reinforce my Government's historical commitment to empowering all citizens, including women and other disadvantaged groups, to participate in the shaping of our development agenda and its implementation. That notwithstanding, like most countries, the challenges identified during this symposium, particularly those related to

managing the scope and complexity of Agenda 2030 and the capacity needs for its implementation also apply to Uganda.

However, I wish to provide reassurance that with the political commitment and visionary leadership we have in Uganda today, and shall continue to have, these challenges shall be addressed. I am therefore very optimistic that implementation of the Agenda 2030 in Uganda shall be a success. My optimism is further reinforced by the fact that our current National Development Plan was formulated in anticipation of the SDGs and thus incorporated most of the SDGs. To that end, my Ministry is henceforth requiring all Sectors to internalise SDGs in all their subsequent annual sector plans and budgets.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is important to observe that under the SDGs, Development cooperation and partnerships should not be about money but should more importantly be about peer learning, mutual respect, and mutual trust. As we pursue implementation of the new revitalised development agenda it is important that we all ensure the accomplishment of the unfinished MDG business and deliver on previous commitments.

I thank you for all your contributions during the last three days and I am certain there is a lot we have learnt from each other and more importantly I hope you have had a reasonable interaction with Ugandan hospitality and the beauty and warmth of our people and culture.

Let me also take this opportunity to convey my Government's appreciation and gratitude to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Belgium Technical Cooperation (BTC) and all other stakeholders for their support that has made this DCF symposium a success.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to further encourage you to take time and explore more of Uganda's beautiful countryside before you travel back home.

I now take the honour to declare this Second UN Development Cooperation Forum High-level Symposium Uganda closed and I wish you a safe travel back to your Capitals.