

**Statement**

**By**

**H.E. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni  
President of the Republic of Uganda**

**At**

**Development Cooperation Forum High level  
Symposium**

**Kampala, Uganda  
5 November, 2015**

**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 pleased to officiate at this high-level symposium that brings us together, as a community of nations, to dialogue on development cooperation.

This Symposium provides an excellent platform for collective reflections. We must capitalise on this

symposium and agree on sound policy choices to guide development cooperation during the post-2015 global development agenda. This is absolutely crucial in **making the renewed global partnership for sustainable development a reality.**

Uganda, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), is honoured to host the 2015 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) High-Level Symposium from November 4-6, 2015.

This is a historic Symposium coming immediately after adopting a successor international development agenda (SDGs) in September 2015 to the Millennium

Development Goals with the theme: “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is ambitious in its scope and breadth. In the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development are addressed in an integrated way. The agenda also carries forward the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This two day dialogue is expected to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences for financing sustainable development, adhering to the

fundamental principle of the Post-2015 process to be as inclusive, participatory and as transparent as possible. We expect to mainly reflect on our national issues basing on the outcome from the Addis International Conference on financing for development. We need to dialogue on ensuring that we identify resources that will effectively close any financing gap under the National Development Plans of our countries. Alternative resources for financing Sustainable Development should be identified and assessed based on utility, applicability and stakeholder's ability manage these resources.

This symposium should harmonise the positions of both Government and the Development Partners as far as Financing for Development is concerned. In this regard, I wish to reiterate the fact that

achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will largely depend on being rooted in cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies and national financing mechanism. Each country has a primary responsibility for its own economic and social development. It is therefore important that all stakeholders, especially at the country level, appreciate the Sustainable Development Goals, their financing and implementation arrangements, as well as the different roles and responsibilities.

Your Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda, seen by some to be ambitious, requires an equally ambitious, comprehensive, holistic and transformative means of implementation that

integrates the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. This requires not only financial resources but multi-stakeholder partnerships. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and resources are required to complement the efforts of Government and support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

In this vein, I would like to call upon all our Development Partners to align development assistance towards achieving the SDG targets.

Partner countries recommitted their continued effort for effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, sound policies, and good governance at all levels; and domestic resource mobilisation. Uganda will continue exploring alternative, but affordable

sources, to financing Development. The emphasis and priority will however go towards increasing interventions, identifying mechanisms to strengthen tax administration, and enhancing efforts to widen the tax base.

### **Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen**

In this context, integrating the SDGs into our respective national and regional development plans, mobilizing adequate financial resources, technology development and transfer as well as capacity building will be critical.

We have to ensure full implementation of the comprehensive framework for financing sustainable development, which we adopted in the Addis Ababa

Action Agenda to support achievement of the goals and targets of Agenda 2030.

One of the major challenges many developing countries continue to face is accessing affordable long-term financing for critical infrastructure projects.

In this regard, it will be vital to promptly establish and operationalize the proposed new forum to bridge the infrastructure gap and complement existing initiatives and multilateral mechanisms to facilitate access to long-term financing at concessional and affordable rates.

New financing will focus on involving the private sector in development, blending arrangements to

mobilise cheaper sources of funding at the same time engage private sector participation.

The efforts of developing countries to improve domestic resource mobilization, boost economic growth and address major challenges such as unemployment should be supported by development partners as well as international financial institutions and regional development banks. We also need to do more to promote Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), support entrepreneurship – especially for women and youth – and enhance the contribution of the private sector and other stakeholders to sustainable development.

With improved prioritization, the Least Developed Countries themselves can also contribute to their own infrastructure development. We have refocused our prioritization in Uganda and we are now implementing major infrastructure projects which are laying a firm foundation for economic take off. This prioritization can be undertaken at a more strategic regional level though regional efforts such the Northern Corridor Integration Project of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and now DRC.

We need a renewed global partnership for development in which all the commitments made, including commitments on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), trade and investment are fulfilled.

As a country, we feel honoured to host this important Symposium which will contribute to making sustainable development a reality for all. No one should be left behind. It is incumbent upon us all to take the development aspirations laid out in the SDGs and turn them into reality on the ground; for our people, our communities and our nations for sustainable growth and development.

It is now my honour and pleasure to open the Development Cooperation Forum High Level Symposium.

I thank you.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**