



# UGANDA

---

Permanent Mission of Uganda  
To the United Nations  
New York

Tel : (212) 949 – 0110  
Fax : (212) 687 - 4517

---

## Statement

By

**Hon. Ajedra Gabriel Gadison Aridru**

**Minister of State for Finance, Ministry of Finance, Planning and  
Economic Development**

During the

**ECOSOC 2017 Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up**

**New York  
22-25 May 2017**

*Please Check Against Delivery*

President of Economic and Social Council,  
Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Uganda in association with the international community is committed to implement the Addis Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We believe that it is good to always remember that sustainable development and sustainable financing go hand-in-hand.

As a primary framework for financing sustainable development including the 2030 Agenda and its 17 goals, the Addis Agenda on Financing for Development has cemented our conviction that the essence of sustainable development is evident in both its means and end.

Mr. President, sustainable national financing strategies function as an ecosystem and must be treated and supported as such. This principle has guided our implementation effort in Uganda of the Addis Agenda. We are committed to financial inclusion as an anchor for the creation of the required financial ecosystem where all the other forms of financing can thrive. We have accordingly strengthened our legal and institutional frameworks to support this understanding.

Consistent with the revolutionary reach of telecom technologies to the remotest of rural areas, Uganda's banking sector has taken a leap forward in making banking services universal. The provision for Agent Banking under the Financial Institutions Amendment Act (2016) has set the stage for a new and more inclusive face to commercial banking in Uganda that bypasses the limitation of the traditional bank branch networks. This development builds on the phenomenal success of mobile money payment platforms which have seen the number of mobile money accounts more than quadruple that of commercial bank accounts in less than a decade.

Aware that effective implementation of the 2030 agenda requires both efficient use of internal resources and mobilization of additional external resources, Uganda has instituted a range of reforms aimed at strengthening public finance management, financial inclusion and resource mobilization across public and private sectors. Notable among these is the Public Finance Management Act (2015), which provides for certification of the National Budget and sector budgets to ensure their compliance with the National Development Plan. To this end, we welcome the work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. We invite Member States to continue to support the Committee and its subsidiary bodies through the voluntary trust fund, to enable the Committee fulfil its mandate, including supporting the increased participation of developing country experts at subcommittee meetings.

Ladies and gentlemen, the role of the private sector in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda cannot be overemphasized. On this account, Uganda has also enacted the Public Private Partnership Act (2015) and the Registration of Persons Act (2015) both of which are meant to enhance resource mobilization and improve targeting of public interventions. These reforms are transformative and will allow us as a country to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda as applicable in Uganda while ensuring inclusive participation in the development process.

Mr. President and distinguished delegates, over the medium term, further attention will be directed at mobilizing long term finance in recognition of the fact that investments for sustainable development require large amounts of long term capital. Uganda's aim, in this regard is to accelerate industrialization which will in turn facilitate inclusive growth. To this end, Uganda looks forward to benefiting from the technology facilitation mechanism in as far as it enhances transfer of new innovations and technologies.

Mr. President, in our efforts to address the greatest challenges of our time including climate change, we are not without challenges. Limited value addition to our exports; non-tariff barriers in international trade; natural disasters arising from climate change; environmental degradation; and humanitarian crises and conflicts which have triggered unprecedented influx of refugees from neighbouring countries.

Uganda is now home to over 1.2 million refugees and still counting. We continue to receive up to 2,000 refugees daily since the beginning of year. While Uganda remains open to extending a helping hand to vulnerable refugees as conditions dictate, our hospitality has been severely stretched and the pressure on host community resources is reaching unprecedented levels. In the spirit of global partnership and solidarity firmly expressed in the opening paragraph of the Addis Agenda, we've joined forces with UNHCR to organise a solidarity Conference in Kampala from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 to drum up support for the suffering innocent civilians who have been forced out of their homes.

Mr. President, allow me to take this opportunity to invite all delegations represented here to join us in Kampala in support of this noble humanitarian cause. Accordingly, we request that global resources should be committed to areas where the needs are greatest.

In conclusion, Uganda looks forward to benefiting from the global knowledge arising from this and future follow-up meetings on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

I thank you for your kind attention.