



UGANDA

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Statement

Delivered

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Development**

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We associate ourselves with the statements made by Egypt on behalf of G77 and China and that delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group. Allow me now to deliver this statement in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman, the theme for this session "Sustainable Cities, Human Mobility and International Migration very much rhymes with Uganda's development priorities. Due to high fertility, Uganda has a youthful population which forms the base of the country's population structure with 47.9% below 15 years of age. It should be noted that the youth forms the bulk of rural-urban migration in search of employment a phenomenon that comes with serious implications such as unemployment, crime, emergence of slums among others.

Ladies and gentlemen

The government of Uganda, has had to address these challenges in partnership with other stakeholders in a multifaceted approach. Pursuant to Goal 11 of 2030 Agenda, and consistent with the New Urban Agenda, Uganda has adopted the greater Kampala Development Strategy which focuses on four main pillars; infrastructure development, tourism, job creation for the youth and environmental management. The strategy also aims to adopt joint planning mechanisms with neighboring municipalities to harmonize their development plans. This will ensure orderly infrastructure development, sustainable production and consumption, environmental management and provision of decent housing and decent work.

In addition, Uganda is taking measures to initiate a demographic transition by ensuring a rapid decline in fertility to benefit from the demographic dividends. We are focussing our efforts on ensuring access to family planning, coupled with ensuring better child survival and female education. Uganda's roadmap for harnessing the demographic dividend also envisages investments in game changers in the key sectors of health, education, economy (especially job creation) and governance.

Mr. Chairman,

Since 1997, Uganda has invested heavily in education and supported the Universal Primary Education (UPE). Which has enabled us increase enrolment from 2.7 million children in 1997 to over 10 million to-date, with the ratio of girls to boys in schools being equal. We have now embarked on universal secondary education (USE) as we improve the quality of education and reduce the dropout rates especially for the girl child.

Consistent with Goal 3 of 2030 Agenda, government of Uganda recently launched the 2016 Youth Policy and Action Plan as a positive step towards empowering the youth. The Action Plan provides an operational framework to all actors with guidelines from which programmes and services can be developed to facilitate meaningful involvement of youth in national development and to respond to their real needs, be they skills, jobs, among others.

Regarding human mobility and migration, currently Uganda hosts over 1.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers the highest number in the country's history. Majority of these are women and children and mainly from two of our neighboring countries. This has put more pressure on the

already constrained social services; including shelter. As a host country, we are committed to ensuring that their human rights are highly protected, and they have access to social services.

In conclusion, Uganda will continue to improve livelihoods particularly the urban poor and those in vulnerable situations to ensure no one is left behind. Uganda, in partnership with our stakeholders, remains committed to implement the 2030 Agenda, Paris agreement on climate change and the New Urban agenda in pursuit of sustainable urban development. We look forward to working together with all delegations to have a successful conclusion of the 51st Session on Population and Development.

Thank you.