



The Republic of Uganda

**UGANDA**

---

**THE 54<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

---

**STATEMENT BY**

**HON. NAKADAMA RUKIA ISANGA**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER AND CULTURE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

New York, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010

Please Check Against Delivery

Madam Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Uganda, I wish to convey our sincere congratulations to you and the Bureau, for the astute leadership that the Commission has continued to provide in advancing the global gender equality and women's empowerment agenda. My delegation is optimistic that the outcomes of the 54<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission will provide the impetus to the process of moving from commitment to action and strengthen the momentum for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment across all United Nations Member States.

2. Madam Chair, by focusing on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty third special session of the General Assembly, this session provides a strategic opportunity to share our successes, challenges and opportunities from a global perspective. This session also affirms the linkages between the global framework on gender equality and women's empowerment with the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Madam Chair, I am pleased to report that the Government of Uganda has registered significant progress in strengthening the policy and legal frameworks to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. For instance in 2009, laws on Domestic Violence; Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation and Human Trafficking, were enacted. The country has attained gender parity in school enrolment as a result of universal primary and secondary education programmes. Functional adult literacy services whose 70 percent of beneficiaries are women, have contributed to the reduction of illiteracy levels.

4. Further progress is evident in poverty reduction. Currently 69 percent of the Ugandan population lives above the poverty line as compared to 62 percent in 2003. HIV/AIDS prevalence rate has been contained at 6%, though the epidemic continues to exhibit a female face. Government remains committed to and shall deepen efforts to ensure prosperity for all, with a special focus on the poorest and vulnerable population, especially 31 percent who live below the poverty line, including women and youth and tackling school dropout rates for girls.

5. Madam Chair, despite the above progress, significant challenges still exist. High Maternal Mortality rates threaten our efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals. Over the past two decades the Maternal Mortality Ratio has remained high, despite the recent reduction from 505 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1988 to 435 per 100,000 in 2006. In this regard, Uganda has prioritized the key intervention areas focusing on improving skilled attendance at birth, equipping health facilities, mobilizing communities for birth and pregnancy planning and ensuring that the unmet need for family planning of 41% is addressed.

6. Madam Chair, the Government of Uganda further reaffirms her commitment to all the seven strategic areas agreed upon by African Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs in Banjul, Gambia in November 2009 as contained in the Banjul Declaration. We also remain committed to implementation of Beijing Platform For Action and all critical regional obligations for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment and girls, many of which we have translated into national level action plans.

7. Madam Chair, let me take this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for the progress made towards to creation of a Composite Gender Entity. I am confident that once established, the body will add impetus to the strides already being made in the promotion gender equality and empowerment of women worldwide. In the same vein I

wish to request the Member States and this Session of CSW to accelerate and conclude discussions on the outstanding issues related to this entity.

As I conclude, Madam Chair, 'allow me to thank all our international partners, as well as the civil society organizations who have contributed in various ways to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in Uganda.

**I THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME.**