



UGANDA

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STATEMENT BY

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**AT THE 56TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)**

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Madam Chairperson,

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address this Distinguished Assembly of the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I congratulate you Madam Chairperson and Members of the Bureau on your leadership in organizing this important meeting. At the onset, let me state that my delegation aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the African Group. I will now proceed to make the statement made by Tunisia on behalf of the African States Group.

My delegation welcomes the theme of this year's session as it is in line with development priorities in my country which focuses on rural transformation and ensuring prosperity for all. Within this framework, the pursuance of gender equality and the empowerment of women is paramount. Uganda has a young population of 37 million in a rural-based economy largely off agriculture. The contribution of women to the economy is significant. Despite the effects of the global economic crisis and the effects of climate change that have restricted availability of food and essential commodities, rural women in Uganda remain resilient. They continue to provide for and care for their households and communities.

Our Government policy and legal framework support the empowerment of women in all spheres. Government is committed to translating policy commitments into action for example:

- Law which protect the rights of rural women have been enacted. These include the Land Administration Act which guarantees the right to property ownership for rural women; the Equal Citizenship Act which is to any transaction on matrimonial land. The Employment Act extended maternity leave to all workers, introduced paternity leave, and prohibits sexual harassment; the penal code was amended to prohibit defilement of girls and boys.
- Intensified action to address Gender-Based Violence including Penile Genital Circumcision (PGC) has resulted in the passing of special laws to combat violence against women and trafficking in Persons. Action groups have been established and supported by the government and other civil society action groups. Government plans to establish safe shelters for survivors of GBV.
- The gender gap in primary school enrolment has been closed. In 2011, the female enrolment was 50.1% for boys. This brings Uganda closer to attaining MDG 3 achieving gender parity in Primary Education by 2015.
- In the last general elections of 2011, the number of women in political structures including positions increased. At parliament women representation has risen from 24.0% in 2001 to the present 35%. Local Council structures have provided spaces and given voice to the women to participate in governance.
- In the last 2 years, Government has put in place several protection measures for vulnerable groups including older women to facilitate their access to basic services health and social security.
- Other interventions include a review of laws by gender and courts for rural women, adult literacy programs and business skills development.

Despite all this progress, we are still struggling with challenges in our Malian and Saharan landscapes, such as
early marriages and persistent poverty which exhibits a female face.

Our Government will continue to work in close collaboration with Civil Society, Faith-based Organizations
and the Private Sector partners to make that equality, development and enjoyment of rights
become a reality for all women, men, girls and boys.

"Thank you, Mr. Ambassador"

The Government of Mali would like to thank Mr. Ambassador for his support and the excellent
spirit of cooperation and collaboration that has been maintained between our two countries.

With regards to the issue of gender equality, the Government of Mali wishes to thank the United Nations
for its continued support and encouragement to implement the National Strategy for Gender Equality
and the National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women and Girls. This strategy aims at reducing
the gender gap in education, health, employment, politics and law, as well as increasing the representation
of women in decision-making bodies. The Government of Mali also wishes to thank the UNDP for its
support in the implementation of the National Strategy for Gender Equality and the National Plan of
Action for the Advancement of Women and Girls.

On the issue of climate change, the Government of Mali wishes to thank the UNDP for its support in the
implementation of the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. This strategy
aims at reducing the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups and communities, particularly
those in rural areas.

On the issue of peacekeeping, the Government of Mali wishes to thank the UNDP for its support in the
implementation of the National Strategy for Peacekeeping. This strategy aims at reducing the impact of
conflict on vulnerable groups and communities, particularly those in rural areas. The UNDP has
also provided technical assistance to the Government of Mali in the implementation of the National
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assistance to the Government of Mali in the implementation of the National Strategy for Peacekeeping.

On the issue of sustainable development, the Government of Mali wishes to thank the UNDP for its support in
the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. This strategy aims at
reducing the impact of unsustainable development on vulnerable groups and communities, particularly
those in rural areas. The UNDP has provided technical assistance to the Government of Mali in the
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