



# UGANDA

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE**

**8<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**New York,**

**February 7, 2014**

*Please Check Against Delivery*

**Co- Chair,  
Distinguished Participants,**

My delegation aligns itself with the Statements delivered by the Representatives of Bolivia, Guinea, Benin, and Iran on behalf of the G77 and China, the African Group, LDCs, and NAM respectively.

The panel presentations and subsequent discussions since yesterday have shown that addressing conflict prevention, post conflict peacebuilding, and promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance is critical for the achievement of sustainable development.

There is indeed wide recognition that peace, security, human rights and development are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing. In the Rio+20 Outcome “The Future We Want” we collectively reaffirmed the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for human rights, the rule of law, and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development.

We reiterate, as recognized in Rio+20, that democracy, good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development. We also stress the need for institutions at all levels that are effective, transparent, accountable and democratic.

**Co-Chair,**

From Uganda’s history and experience as a country that suffered from the ravages of conflict for nearly two decades, we underscore the need to exert greater efforts towards preventing and resolving conflicts. The international community spends colossal amounts of resources on peacekeeping and invests minimally on conflict prevention.

Yet, the returns on investing in conflict prevention are overwhelming: you prevent war and thereby save lives, resources, and foster development. When Uganda emerged from conflict in 1986, our GDP was a mere US \$ 1.5 billion. Today, as a result of peace, stability, rule of law and good policies, the size of Uganda’s economy has expanded nearly twentyfold, with economic growth rates averaging 6-7% over the last two decades.

On post-conflict peacebuilding, the increasing attention accorded by the UN through the Peacebuilding Commission, UN Agencies and the international community is welcome and commendable.

However, more support is still required to enable post-conflict countries implement nationally owned strategies that provide peace dividends, address the root causes of the conflict, promote durable peace, rule of law, democratic governance and development. In this regard, there is need to leverage national, regional and international resources in a more coordinated way.

**Co-Chair,**

There is no doubt that good governance is essential for achievement of sustainable development. At the national level, it entails having strong institutions, promoting the rule of law, improving the efficiency and accountability of the public sector, the private sector, as well as the participation and contribution of all citizens. We should strive to ensure that the SDGs, as part of Post-2015 Development Agenda, put people's well being at the centre. In this regard, local governments and authorities will have an important role to play in implementation at the grassroots level.

In May 2013 Uganda hosted a Commonwealth Local Government Conference, attended by over six hundred representatives of governments, international organisations, private sector, academia, and civil society. The Conference adopted the *Kampala Declaration of Developmental Local Government*, and the *Munyonyo Statement on Local Government's Role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, subsequently endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of State in 2013. Those outcomes recognized the role which local governments can play in enhancing democratic governance, delivery of essential services, and promoting economic development.

Finally, if we are to have an effective global partnership for development, it is imperative to address the issues of fulfilling commitments and reforming institutions of global governance, including the UN and international financial institutions, to make them more equitable, representative, and responsive to the needs and aspirations of developing countries.

The crucial issues of conflict prevention, post conflict peacebuilding, and promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance are key enablers for sustainable development. The challenge will be *how* to reflect them in the SDGs framework. Thank you for your attention.