

Remarks by the Minister of State for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, in charge of Urban Development- Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development – Hon. Isaac Musumba
Ladies and Gentlemen

Uganda is experiencing a high rate of urbanization estimated at 5.2% per annum. About 20% of Uganda's population lives in urban areas and it is projected by 2050, about half of Uganda's population will be living in urban areas. This will have serious implications on demand for land, infrastructure services, housing, jobs and food to mention but a few.

Therefore, this high rate of urbanization calls for adoption of new approaches for us to manage it. One of those approaches is promotion of the concept of partnerships, Networking and stakeholder engagement in the development process, this can be achieved through the Uganda National Urban Forum which is a replica of the World Urban Forum that brings together all stakeholders of all walks of life for active participation in sustainable urban development.

The Government of Uganda through MLHUD in conjunction with its development partners Cities Alliance (CA), UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Habitat spearheaded the formation of the Uganda National Urban Forum (UNUF) concept in Uganda in 2010 after the World

Urban Forum 5 that took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 22–26 March 2010 as one of the follow up activities for the World Urban Forum.

The UNUF constitutes of all key stakeholders in the Urban sector, that brings together individuals and representatives of governmental and non-governmental institutions that include but not limited to; urban practitioners, urban local governments professionals, the urban poor organizations and Associations, utility service Providers/ Agencies, Religious and cultural institutions, societal opinion leaders, private sector and the business community, the faith based organizations, civil society, the academia, the media fraternity, the NGOs, the CBOs, the youth organizations, women organizations, the vulnerable and individuals amongst others.

The UNUF was aimed at providing provide a forum/platform for stakeholder engagement and dialogue for sustainable urban development and improved service delivery for transformation of the urban sector.

It seeks to provide a platform for dialogue at national level for all stakeholders in the urban sector with an aim of establishing a permanent forum for networking, sharing and disseminating information, promoting cooperation amongst various actors and promoting collective participation, advocacy for prioritization of urban sector issues and promoting integrated planning and management of urban growth a vision of sustainable urban development.

The Uganda National Urban Forum (UNUF) is a multi-stakeholder platform for policy dialogue to support sustainable urban development, decision making and review processes at all levels, including through advocacy, knowledge sharing, capacity development, partnership and networking at the national level.

The Vision of the UNUF is “Inclusive dialogue & participation for sustainable urban Development” which we believe will take the sector to greater heights.

The Mission for UNUF is “To provide a platform for dialogue and participation amongst all stakeholders to influence policy and legal reforms for sustainable urban development”

Some of the principles of UNUF include among others;

- ✚ Voluntarism, Public Interest and Mutual Relationship
- ✚ Collective responsibility of all urban sector actors for sustainable urban development;
- ✚ Promotion of Integrated planning framework that ensures sustainable urban development;
- ✚ Effective coordination amongst all urban sector actors to enhance complementarity of roles;
- ✚ Cooperation arrangements and networking at national level to enhance capacities and capabilities of urban sector actors;
- ✚ Broad-based stakeholder participatory and consultations on Urban Development issues

The key objectives are;

- ✚ To build the knowledge base on Urban development issues through publications, research and debates
- ✚ To promote stakeholder engagements on critical Urban development issues
- ✚ To raise awareness on Urban Development Agenda of Uganda
- ✚ To offer policy advice regarding the management and governance of urban areas in Uganda

The UNUF operates under a principle of engagement and networking, it provides an opportunity for us as a country to know who does what in the urban sector and therefore avoid duplication and misallocation of the limited resources that would otherwise be used for sustainable development of the urban sector.

In reference to the above background, my Ministry recognizes the need for all key stakeholders in Urban Development to take part in the development process, therefore we have organized a one-day General Assembly of the UNUF which is scheduled to take place tomorrow (October 29, 2019) at Imperial Royale Hotel and shall attract all stakeholders who have already been mobilized.

Sustainable urbanization, a collective responsibility

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY