

## Uganda's preparations for Participation in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20

Presented by Samuel Otuba  
at the National Sustainable Development Forum  
22<sup>nd</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011  
KAMPALA

## Institutional Framework

- ▶ The National Focal Point is in place – Dr. Tom O.Okurut replaces Dr. Aryamanya Mugisha,
- ▶ Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations, New York – Amb. Ben Lukwiya,
- ▶ Desk Officer at the Ministry of Water and Environment Headquarters – Samuel Otuba,
- ▶ Implementing Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) at sector and cross-sector level,

## Key Meetings on the preparations

- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> Preparatory meeting held May 2010 – objectives and theme of the Rio+20 conference drafted,
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Committee meeting held March 2011 in New York – Secretary General's Report on the objectives & theme,
- ▶ 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable development was held in New York 2<sup>nd</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011,

## What has been done

- ▶ The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the National Sustainable Development Forum was held 2010,
- ▶ The National Sustainable Development Think Tank (NSDTT) has been conceived and membership constituted,
- ▶ The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the National Sustainable Development Forum (22<sup>nd</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2011)
- ▶ Review of the Country's achievements since the Rio Summit in 1992 (on-going)

## Support for the Preparations

- ▶ Regional Commissions provide support and coordinate capacity building for national preparations,
- ▶ The Africa region capacity building session and the Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) will be held in Addis Ababa 19<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> October 2011,
- ▶ The aim of the session is to increase awareness of the themes of the Rio+20 Conference and build capacity to engage with the UN preparatory process and the conference itself.
- ▶ Registration and accreditation questions for the Africa RPM can be directed to Mr. Akol Charles ([cakol@uneca.org](mailto:cakol@uneca.org)) and Ms Alessandra Sgobbi ([asgobi@uneca.org](mailto:asgobi@uneca.org))

## Way forward

- ▶ The National Focal Point (NEMA) will liaise with UNECA on the Regional Preparatory Meeting and prepare the country team to attend,
- ▶ A forum to debrief stakeholders and the NSDTT will be organized and a roadmap for national preparations developed,
- ▶ Within the above, thematic and/or sub-thematic groups (teams) will be identified to spearhead preparation of respective inputs,
- ▶ Specific studies to generate the required data may be undertaken subject to availability of funds

## Thematic Areas

- ▶ **Transport** – as a central component of sustainable development and economic growth will be discussed with focus on:
  - Optimization of transport infrastructure,
  - Sustainability and promotion of transport technology,
  - Provision of basic rural transport infrastructure,
  - Public-private partnerships in transport systems,
  - Enabling environment for sustainable transport,
  - Financing the transport sector

## Thematic Areas – cont'd

- ▶ **Waste Management** – is another critical area that will be discussed with focus on:
  - Development and use of instruments for waste management and infrastructure,
  - Social and poverty issues related to informal waste management,
  - Reduction of the amount of waste disposed off into landfills,
  - Handling emerging challenges such as e-waste,
  - Collaboration and partnerships in waste management,
  - Information, Education, Communication and Capacity building for waste management

## Thematic Areas – Cont'd

- ▶ **Mining** – as an “essential economic activity for modern living” will be discussed to cover:
  - The critical link between mining and other economic, social and environmental activities,
  - Legal and regulatory frameworks and policies for sustainable mining,
  - Promotion and protection of the rights of local and indigenous communities,
  - Governance and policy framework for the mining sector

## Thematic Areas – Cont'd

- ▶ **Poverty** – the trends and analysis of the extent and impacts of poverty will be discussed including measures adopted over time,
- ▶ **Demography** – population growth and characteristics with policy and sustainable development implications,
- ▶ **Climate and Climate Change** – linking climate change to sustainable development,
- ▶ **Financing** – opportunities and sustainable approaches to financing development,
- ▶ **Planning** – focusing on the National Development Plan, lower level stakeholder participation and regional and international linkages,
- ▶ **Land Resource** – as an engine for growth and sustainable development,
- ▶ **Human Resource** – including education, culture and indigenous knowledge for sustainable development.

## CONCLUSION

- ▶ National preparations for Rio+20 will be led by the National Focal Point with the involvement of the MDAs, CSOs and other partners,
- ▶ Reporting and documentation will be within the format and guidelines,
- ▶ National preparations will be undertaken through thematic teams based on agreed upon areas,
- ▶ Specific studies may be undertaken to generate data required to strengthen the country presentations,
- ▶ Reports will be discussed and endorsed at national level with high political commitment prior to the Conference (June 2012)