



**REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

## **UGANDA PARTNERSHIP POLICY (2013)**

FRAMEWORK FOR THE PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE BETWEEN  
GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

***LAUNCHED 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014***

## **PREAMBLE**

1. The Government of the Republic of Uganda launched the Uganda Vision 2040 in April 2013 to provide development paths and strategies aiming at transforming Uganda into a competitive upper middle income country. The Vision 2040 is implemented through five-year National Development Plans (NDPs), which defines the Government's medium-term strategic direction, development priorities and implementation strategies.
2. Development Partners providing external assistance to Uganda are committed to increasing the effectiveness of their cooperation with Government in order to support the achievement of the national development goals as define in the NDPs. This is in line with international agreements, including the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (2012).
3. In order to promote effective development cooperation, the Government has adopted the Uganda Partnership Policy (2013), which sets out the guiding principles and priorities for the Government's management of the relationship with its Development Partners and the external assistance provided within the context of the NDPs.
4. To date, the Government has not had a formal overall platform for engaging with all Development Partners. However, at sector level broad coordination is taking place in the joint Sector Working Groups (SWGs). The SWGs are Government chaired groups, which include representatives from MDAs, Development Partners, NGOs, the private sector etc. SWGs are responsible for coordinating support to the sectors as defined by Government, but their effectiveness and links to national planning processes can be strengthened.
5. In response to the Uganda Partnership Policy and in order to strengthen the joint policy dialogue and the links between sector coordination and overall partnership dialogue, the Government and Development Partners have agreed on the following implementing arrangements outlining the framework for the partnership dialogue, which will take effect as of December 9, 2014:

## **OBJECTIVES**

6. The objectives of the partnership dialogue between the Government and Development Partners are to:
  - (i) Increase the effectiveness of development assistance in support of the national goals and systems of the Government of Uganda; and
  - (ii) Ensure transparency and accountability between the Government and Development Partners and to Ugandan citizens in the management of development cooperation.

## **PRINCIPLES**

7. The guiding principles for the wider partnership dialogue build on the five core principles of the Paris Declaration, the Uganda Partnership Policy and the principles for dialogue on external support as proposed by Government at the joint Policy Coordination Committee (PCC) meeting on October 3, 2013:

- (i) **A strategic focus on development outcomes:** The overall strategic dialogue between the Government and Development Partners will focus on outcomes and long term impact.
- (ii) **An inclusive dialogue recognizing different modalities for external support:** Different modalities for development cooperation have different strengths and weaknesses. The partnership dialogue will focus on promoting an optimum composition and complementarity of modalities to respond to the country's development challenges and opportunities.
- (iii) **Alignment to the NDP:** The NDP constitutes the Government's overall development blue print. NDPs are prepared in close consultation with Development Partners and other relevant stakeholders. The partnership dialogue will be guided by the priorities set out in the NDP and other national strategies and address issues affecting the effective delivery of these priorities.
- (iv) **Strengthening mutual accountability:** Confidence, reciprocal trust and partnership around shared agendas enhance mutual accountability and transparency in the use of development resources. The partnership dialogue will ensure that Government and Development Partners are mutually accountable to each other and to the citizens of Uganda for delivering development results.
- (v) **Building Government Systems:** Building national systems for public financial management, procurement and monitoring and evaluation is important for achieving and sustaining national development results. The partnership dialogue will aim at strengthening and encouraging the use of Government systems, including public financial management systems and statistical capacity.

## FRAMEWORK FOR DIALOGUE

8. To foster a high quality, focused and mutually owned dialogue, led by Government, and with clear and congruent development and aid effectiveness agendas, the partnership policy dialogue will be guided by the NDPs and monitored using the Government Assessment Performance Report (GAPR)<sup>1</sup>, including the High Level Action Matrix.

9. The partnership dialogue will focus on a limited number of mutually agreed sector and crosscutting commitments recommended as part of annual sector reviews and in line with the NDP and the GAPR. These commitments will have a strategic focus on development outcomes and lasting results and will be accompanied by performance indicators and targets.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

10. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is responsible for overall policy coordination and monitoring and evaluation. OPM oversees the overall monitoring of the NDP and the Partnership Policy and is responsible for its implementation and leadership across Government.

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<sup>1</sup> The GAPR is produced prior to the budget call circular to inform the budget cycle and therein the decisions over allocations between sectors and MDAs.

11. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) has the responsibility to mobilize financial resources and manage development cooperation, including negotiation, signature, disbursement, and reporting, and manages the day-to-day relations with Development Partners. MoFPED ensures compliance of development projects with the NDP and sector priorities and makes appropriate financing available for timely and effective implementation.

12. The National Planning Authority (NPA) has responsibility to prepare comprehensive national development plans and guide the planning process. It plays a key role in identifying NDP financing needs and monitoring implementation of the NDP, including alignment of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework with the NDPs; assisting MDAs in preparing plans and budgets and estimating financing needs; and ensuring that programs and projects submitted for financing are compliant with the NDP priorities.

13. The Local Development Partners' Group (LDPG) is the apex coordination forum for Development Partners in Uganda. The LDPG coordinates Development Partners' engagement with the Government on overall issues related to development cooperation and oversees the work of thematic/sectoral Development Partners' Groups (DPGs).

## ORGANIZATION

14. The partnership dialogue will be aligned with the national planning, budgeting and reporting cycle and to the extent possible be managed using existing Government policy-making structures and processes in order to minimize transaction costs and maximize alignment with the NDP. The following joint structures will coordinate the wider partnership dialogue between Government and Development Partners:

15. The **National Partnership Forum** (NPF), chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by Ministers, Ambassadors and Heads of Cooperation, will constitute the highest level of consultation. The NPF will build on the existing PCC setting with the inclusion of Development Partners and specifically focus on promoting aid effectiveness and mutual accountability by:

- (i) Discussing progress of key reforms and review implementation of mutual commitments based on national priorities as defined in the NDPs;
- (ii) Reviewing progress on aid effectiveness;
- (iii) Reviewing the GAPR and discuss sectoral, thematic and crosscutting issues affecting effective delivery of services;
- (iv) Reviewing existing coordination structures and continuously work towards improving their effectiveness in delivering the NDPs;
- (v) Considering any issues affecting implementation of the Partnership Policy; and
- (vi) Making agendas, decisions and joint statements available on OPM's website in a timely manner.

16. In support of the NPF, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will chair meetings with Development Partners to discuss the national budget for the coming fiscal year. Such meetings will be scheduled in accordance with the budget calendar.

17. The joint **Sector Working Groups** (SWGs) meet regularly to strengthen implementation by coordinating support to sector objectives and policies in accordance with the NDPs. SWGs are chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the concerned line ministry. The SWGs will:

- (i) Formulate and coordinate sector strategies for long, medium and short term investment plans and budgets;
- (ii) Oversee implementation of development cooperation within the sector;
- (iii) Undertake annual or bi-annual sector reviews to inform decisions on allocations between sectors and MDAs based on past performance and sector demands;
- (iv) Promote alignment and harmonization of development partner programs;
- (v) Share and discuss sector specific studies and reviews; and
- (vi) Report to the PCC, and make all relevant information available to the public in a timely manner.

18. Furthermore, meetings between Development Partners and MDAs may be organized on an ad hoc basis to discuss sector specific issues. Other existing frameworks for dialogue between Development Partners and MoFPED, which will feed into the NPF, include consultations within the Public Expenditure Management Committee (PEMCOM), a high-level forum for strategic guidance on the Public Finance Management reforms. In addition, bilateral portfolio reviews with Development Partners will serve to identify issues related to the aid effectiveness agenda.

19. A joint **Partnership Policy Taskforce**, chaired by the Permanent Secretary (OPM), will prepare the NPF and monitor follow-up on agreed actions and implementation of the Partnership Policy. Members of the Taskforce include OPM, MoFPED, the National Planning Authority, the NGO Forum and Development Partners.