



**UGANDA PRIVATE SECTOR PLATFORM FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS LAUNCH – 4TH MAY 2021, 2PM
REMARKS BY HON. DR. ELLY KARUHANGA**

Salutations

- Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda
- Minister for General Duties and Focal Point Minister for SDGs Hon. Mary Okurut
- Ag. Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development Mr. Patrick Ocailap
- H.E Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator
- UN Agencies in Uganda, diplomatic missions, development partners
- Private Sector Foundation of Uganda leadership: Vice Chair Hon. Victoria Sekitoleko, Executive Director, Mr. Gideon Badagawa,
- Executive Director & CEO of the United Nations Global Compact, New York Ms. Sanda Ojiambo

- CEO Summit Team Leader, Dr. Peter Kimbowa
- Executive Director of the Uganda Bankers Association Ms. Wilbrod Owor
- Representatives of the Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations and the Members of the fourth estate
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Private Sector in Uganda, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government of Uganda, UN in Uganda for the continued efforts to ensure that we work together to drive sustainable partnerships to grow our economy in Uganda.

Today, we officially launch the Sustainable Development Goals Private Sector platform, and I must congratulate all the partners that have made this possible. This is a great milestone for the private sector, because the platform is going to make us more resilient, efficient and productive.

In Uganda many private sector actors as well as Civil Society Organizations are doing a lot of work that is contributing to the achievement of the various SDGs within their mandates. The Private Sector Foundation in Uganda has been playing a central role in mobilizing the Private Sector in Uganda in order embrace and take action on the various key pillars of the SDGs. We are glad that over the years PSFU has worked very closely with UNDP and other Development partners in championing some of the pillars of the SDGs and through this process we have been able to bring on board several companies to take action in operationalizing the SDGs in production and operations processes at their work place.

I wish to share with you some of the interventions PSFU has undertaken in promoting and implementing the SDGs according to the various pillars:

Goal 2: End Hunger, Achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

PSFU has been greatly involved in advocating and implementing National programs that enhance food security and sustainable Agriculture.

Through various programs, PSFU has been providing support to both large and small scale farmers to incorporate environmental conservation, environmental health, economic profitability and social equity in their Agriculture practises. PSFU has also been at the forefront in promoting both food and bio – fortification and development of sustainable food systems.

Goal 3: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The private sector in Uganda are key players in providing affordable primary education. For example a number of manufacturing companies in Uganda have been providing free education facilities to the children of their workers at the workplace and I wish to applaud them.

PSFU has also taken a central stage in promoting a lifelong learning to ensure Ugandans who have left formal training and are now in active employment can continue accessing training both at their workplaces and beyond. And PSFU will

continue to advocate for the setting up of a National Skills **Development Fund** which will enable every Uganda to access continuous learning and skills upgrading in order to be competitive for the world of work.

Goal 5: Gender Equality and Women's empowerment

On 16th August 2016, PSFU pledged to adopt the **Gender Equality Seal for Private Enterprises**. The Seal is an innovative tool that enables companies to increase profitability and productivity by addressing gender gaps at work place environment. Today, we have been able to reach out to 42 private corporate companies to sign on the gender equality seal. Companies committed to implement the GES range from manufacturing, ICT, Banking & services sectors.

In addition we have also encouraged employers within the Private Sector to give both women and men equal employment opportunities and equitable remuneration methods regardless of gender as well as implementing family friendly policies at the workplace.

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Research has indicated that almost every household either uses charcoal or firewood for cooking, revealing that the dependency on firewood as a source of energy is straining the environment locally, regionally and globally.

Through our partnership with the World Bank under The Uganda Clean Cooking Supply Chain Expansion Project, we have encouraged Ugandans to use improved cook stoves

PSFU has recently supported companies in the solar energy to uplift their operations after the effects of COVID19 on the sector.

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

PSFU has actively advocated for policies that promote entrepreneurship and job creation through our Lead Firm Structure Model developed, we hope to create more than 300,000 decent jobs for young people. And so far, through our SDF program (Skills Development Facility) we have skilled over 50,000 young people who have started their own enterprises or already engaged in meaningful employment.

Goal 13: Climate Action

We are also promoting smart climate actions among private sector entities. PSFU is working closely with UNDP NDC Country Programme to sensitize and motivate private sector players to ensure that their operations reduce the risks of climate change and promote the Green Economy.

Today, we commit to deliver the following objectives to support the implementation of SDGs within the private sector;

- a) PSFU will support the private sector contribute to effective achievement of the SDGs through a number of interventions
- b) We will support the effective reporting on SDG achievements at the national level

c) PSFU will lobby for a conducive environment that will support the achievement of the envisaged SDGs

Thank you for listening to me. For God and my Country.