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Uganda

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ACTV	African Centre For Treatment of Torture Victims
ACU	Anti-Corruption Unit
ARV	Antiretroviral Drugs
BUBU	Buy Uganda Build Uganda
BTVET	Business Technical Vocation Education and Training
CAIIP	Community Access to Infrastructure Program
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CEDOVIP	Centre for Domestic Prevention
CERD	Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CFPD	Child and Family Protection Department
CIID	Criminal Intelligence and Investigations Directorate
CMI	Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence
COPTIP	Coordination Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons
CRC	Convention on Rights of Child
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DHIS	District Health Information System
DRDIP	Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project
EC	Electoral Commission
EGP	Electronic Government Procurement
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMR	Electronic Medical Records
EOC	Equal Opportunities Commission
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FHRI	Foundation For Human Rights Initiative
FRRM	Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism
FY	Financial Year
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GSPS	Governance and Security Program Secretariat
HC	Health Centre
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HRCU	Human Rights Centre-Uganda
HSDP	Health Sector Development Plan
HSIRRP	Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ILO	International Labour Organisation

IMC	Inter-Ministerial Technical Steering Committee on Human Rights
IPOD	Interparty Organisation For Dialogue
JLOS	Justice, Law and Order Sector
JSC	Judicial Service Commission
KCCA	Kampala City Council Authority
LCS	Low Cost Sealing
LEA	Legal- Policy Environment Assessment
MATIP	Market and Agriculture Trade Infrastructure Project
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MLHUD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
NAP	National Action Plan on Human Rights
NAPBHR	National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights
NCD	National Council For Disability
NCF	National Consultative Forum
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non- Governmental Organisation
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NIRA	National Identification and Registration Authority
OAG	Office of the Auditor General
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PAS	Paralegal Advisory Services
PPDA	Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority
PPTA	Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012
PSU	Professional Standards Unit
PTIP	Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, Act, 2009
ReHope	Refugee and Host Population Empowerment
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child, Adolescent Health
SAGE	Social Assistance Grant on Empowerment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
STA	Settlement Transformation Agenda
TVET	Technical Vocation Education and Training
UGANET	Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS

UgIFT	Uganda Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
ULC	Uganda Land Commission
ULS	Uganda Law Society
UPDF	Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces
UPF	Uganda Police Force
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UPS	Uganda Prisons Service
URMCHIP	Uganda Reproductive Maternal Child Health Improvement Project
USE	Universal Secondary Education
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
UWEP	Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme
VAC	Violence Against Children
VHT	Village Health Teams
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YVCF	Youth Venture Capital Fund
YLP	Youth Livelihood Programme

I. Introduction

1. Uganda is a constitutional democracy and a country governed by laws. From a military and dictatorial regime in its past history, the National Resistance Movement Government has made significant and commendable strides to improve the human rights situation in Uganda. Government remains committed to upholding the rights and freedoms enshrined in the bill of rights under chapter four of the 1995 Constitution that is the longest Chapter, showing how dedicated the Government is to promotion and protection of human rights. To this end the human rights based approach and specific legislation giving effect to provisions of the Constitution and policies that promote and protect human rights is at the centre of development. In line with her commitment to promote and protect human rights at the national level, Uganda continues to voluntarily participate in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with the aim of sharing our experiences and learning from best practices on human rights. During the first review in 2011, Uganda made voluntary commitments that it continues to implement in order to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights.
2. Since the last review in 2016, Government has enacted and implemented various laws and policies to among others domesticate international human rights standards; ensure inclusive economic growth, equality and accountability; and has strengthened oversight mechanisms including courts of law, the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and Parliamentary Committees on Human Rights, and Equal Opportunities.
3. This report highlights progress made in the implementation of the voluntary pledges Uganda made to the Working Group of the First UPR in October 2011 and the agreed recommendations from the Second UPR in November 2016 informed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also provides a brief summary of key human rights developments in Uganda since November 2016.

II. Background

4. Uganda's participation in the UPR is informed by her historical, constitutional and economic realities. Uganda's struggle for the liberties of the people and restoration of basic human rights dates back to her anti-colonial struggles and the days of resistance against unconstitutional and fascist rule soon after independence.
5. Uganda's anti-colonial struggles were against the injustices of colonial domination, such as loss of self-determination, confiscation of her lands, denial of economic freedoms, torture, rape and death meted out by the colonizing forces; just to mention but a few.
6. After independence in 1962, Ugandans continued to resist injustices including fascist rule occasioned by Idi Amin in the 1970s, which was characterized by extra judicial killings. Between 1966 and 1986, about 800,000 Ugandans were killed in extra judicial killings, and this included prominent personalities. Between 1981–1986 over 300,000 Ugandans were massacred with over 33 mass graves in Luwero district.
7. The National Resistance Movement that took over power in 1986 has since then epitomized Uganda's contribution to the struggle for meaningful enjoyment of freedom and liberty, human dignity, regional and global peace and security by putting in place an enabling legal and institutional framework, which led to the return of Ugandan refugees and has made Uganda a host to many other refugees.
8. Uganda is now globally acknowledged as a haven of peace and freedom, thus becoming one of the biggest destination for refugees from all over the world. To date Uganda hosts over 1.5 Million refugees making it the largest host country in Africa and the third in the world.
9. At both the National and Regional levels, Uganda's record of respecting human rights is a household reality. It is for the same ideological grounding that Uganda is acclaimed as exemplary in all her Peace Enforcement and Peace Keeping missions all over Africa; starting with the UN-Mission in Liberia and now the African Union Mission in Somalia.

III. Methodology

10. This report was compiled in a consultative and participatory process by the advisory Inter-Ministerial Technical Steering Committee (IMC) on human rights coordinated by Ministry of Foreign Affairs comprising of MDAs. Other institutions that participated in the process included; Parliament, Judiciary, UHRC, EOC; Governance and Security Program Secretariat (GSPS) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

IV. Progress in implementation of the voluntary pledges and accepted recommendations

A. Voluntary pledges

11. Uganda continued to implement the voluntary pledges made in its first review and below is a highlight of the measures undertaken;

1. Policy framework

(a) *National Action Plan on Human Rights*

12. Government is in the process of finalizing the National Action Plan (NAP) on Human Rights to align it with the NDPIII and submit to Cabinet for approval. The Third National Development Plan (NDP III), prioritises the implementation of the NAP. The objectives of the NAP are focused on capacity building of Government and citizens in the protection and promotion of human rights, enhancing equality and non-discrimination for all; reducing poverty and promoting individual and collective wellbeing; guaranteeing the enjoyment of civil and political rights and liberties; addressing the human rights needs of special groups and those of victims of conflict and disasters; and implementing Uganda's regional and international human rights obligations.

(b) *Annual review of the human rights situation*

13. The UHRC and EOC in line with their statutory mandates compile annual reports on the situation of human rights in the country. These reports are developed in a consultative process and through evidence based monitoring with relevant stakeholders. In addition, these reports are launched, publicised, scrutinised and debated by Parliament and the public. Consequently, the concerned MDAs are held accountable and best practices commended, and recommendations are made for implementation.

2. Institutional framework

(a) *Standing Cabinet Committee on Human Rights and Inter-Ministerial Technical Steering Committee on Human Rights*

14. The Standing Cabinet Committee on Human Rights and the Advisory Inter-Ministerial Technical Steering Committee on Human Rights (IMC) provide policy and technical guidance on human rights respectively. The Inter-Ministerial Technical Steering Committee on Human Rights among others continues to prepare and submit reports to the Cabinet Committee for approval.

(b) *Human rights desk at the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

15. MoFA has a division on human rights and the MoJCA have a desk officer on human rights. In addition, they chair and co-chair the IMC respectively. MoFA has continued to coordinate preparation of reports to various regional and international mechanisms, follow up on recommendations from various mechanisms at the international and regional level and respond to communications from special procedure. The MoJCA has equally continued to

ensure Uganda upholds the rule of law, good governance and accountability through provision of legal advice.

(c) *Focal points within Ministries Departments and Agencies of Government*

16. Since 2016, directorates, desks and focal points of human rights within the various MDAs continue to follow up and provide updates on the status of human rights and implementation of various human rights recommendations falling within their mandates.

B. Update on status of implementation of accepted UPR recommendations

17. The recommendations have been clustered in thematic areas including; ratification and domestication; cross cutting issues; economic, social and cultural rights; civil and political rights; vulnerable persons; human rights generally; and cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms and International Community.

1. Ratification and domestication of international human rights instruments – Recommendations 115.1-115.3, 115.23, 115.24 and 115.26

Ratification

18. Uganda remains committed to ratification and domestication of international human rights instruments. The ratification is in line with SDG8 and 16. The process of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, 2002, Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No 189), Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, 2000 has been initiated, with consultations ongoing among key stakeholders.

Domestication

19. Government has domesticated international human rights instruments in various laws which is in line with SDG10 and 16, these include:

(a) The Children (Amendment) Act 216 enhances protection of children in conformity with the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC);

(b) The Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019 protects the privacy of the individual and of personal data in compliance with the ICCPR;

(c) The Mental Health Act, 2018 protects the rights of persons with mental illness in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);

(d) The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Regulations, 2017 operationalises the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture, Act, 2012 (PPTA) in compliance with the Convention Against Torture, Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT);

(e) The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Misc. (Amendment) Act, 2019 removes references to the mandatory penalty in specific legislation and restricts the application of the death penalty to the most serious offences in compliance with the ICCPR;

(f) The Human Rights Enforcement Act, 2019 gives effect to Article 50 (4) of the Constitution by providing for the procedure of enforcing human rights under Chapter Four of the Constitution in conformity with the ICCPR; and

(g) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 provides for the respect and promotion of the fundamental and other human rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities in compliance with the CRPD.

20. The Committee on Human Rights of Parliament was set up to inquire into any human rights issues in the country, track and report on human rights concerns in every business of Parliament and monitor government compliance with human rights standards among others. The Committee developed a Human Rights checklist against which assessment of

compliance with human rights in policy, bills, budgets, government programs, and business handled by Parliament is made.

21. In 2019, Government passed the National Transitional Justice Policy to provide a holistic intervention to achieving lasting peace including through administration of justice that is committed to national reconciliation, reintegration, recovery, peace and justice.

22. UHRC continues to review and make recommendations on government compliance with international human rights standards to inform legislation and policies. For instance, recommendations on the first court of instance which has been incorporated in the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019; and civil society representation on the Board of the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the NGO Act, 2016. In 2016, UHRC carried out an assessment on the compatibility of Ugandan laws on children with the CRC and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of a Child and made recommendations for further amendments to relevant laws such as the Registration of Persons Act, 2015, Refugee Act, 2006 and the Children (Amendment) Act, 2016.

2. Cross cutting issues

The Right to self-determination – Recommendations 115.112, 115.136, 115.137, 115.139, 115.141 and 115.142

23. Government is committed to ensuring inclusive economic growth and maintaining the eco system in order to enhance sustainable development in line with SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 13, 14, and 15.

National Development Plan and other policies

24. Government conducted a mid-term review of the National Development Plan II 2015/16-2019/20 (NDP II). During the implementation of NDP II, GDP per capita grew from USD 844 in FY 2011/12 to USD 878 in FY 2018/19 despite the growth in population; the size of the economy has doubled from UGX64 trillion in FY 2010/11 to UGX 128 trillion in FY 2018/19 in nominal terms. Domestic revenue collection increased from UGX 5.02 trillion in FY 2010/11 to UGX 16.359 trillion in FY 2018/19 in nominal terms. Total exports of goods and services in nominal terms grew from USD 3.83 billion in FY 2010/11 to USD 5.3 billion in FY 2017/18. Remittances increased from USD 819 million in FY 2010/11 to over USD 1 billion in FY 2017/18 in nominal terms.

25. Ministry of Water and Environment put in place interventions to access clean water in villages through water supply database and water supply atlas for 2017 to 2021 which marks water points locations to ensure equity and coverage is at 66%.

26. The working population in the industrial sector increased from 10.2% in FY 2015/16 to 13% in FY 2018/19 which is attributed to a favorable investment policy and climate, increase in the number of graduates in science courses, and the one stop center for investments at Uganda Registration Services Bureau and the Presidential Investors' Round Table Negotiations.

27. In FY 2020/21, Government successfully rolled out the Social Assistance Grant on Empowerment (SAGE) to all the districts targeting older persons of 80 years and above, a total of 304,155 older persons have since been enrolled. Through the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP), 21,308 Youth interest groups projects/ enterprises were financed benefiting over 251,940 youths of whom 46% are females. In 2018, the Youth Venture Capital Fund (YVCF) made available UGX 32 billion for youth aged 18 to 30 years who were seeking to work independently or as a group; Loans of up to UGX 5,000,000 for an individual and UGX 25, 0000,000 for small groups of five with an interest of 11% annually payable from 2 to 4 years were made available to the youth. Under the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP), 1,596 women enterprise and skills development projects have been financed, benefiting 18,952 women.

28. Following Cabinet approval of Green Jobs and Fair Labour Market Programme and directive on the Pilot of Songhai Model on Government Land in December 2016, MGLSD kick-started implementation of the Green Jobs and Fair Labour Market Programme. Overall,

the programme has contributed to reduction of the high levels of unemployment among the educated and uneducated through promotion of workplace re-skilling and skilling; promotion of resource efficiency and social safeguards at workplaces; and enhancement for the productivity of workers and enterprises.

29. In 2020, Parliament passed The National Local Content Act, 2020. The Act aims to empower Ugandans by requiring all contractors to give priority to goods produced and services rendered by Ugandan citizens and companies during procurement. The Petroleum Authority of Uganda developed a National Oil and Gas Talent Register to capture all talent that can potentially work in the oil and gas sector. The Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) policy was enacted to ensure a level playing field by promoting consumption of locally produced goods and services. The Market and Agriculture Trade Infrastructure Project has constructed new markets in all municipalities in order to improve the economic rights of farmers and retailers by improving market access and infrastructure development. Community Access to Infrastructure Improvement Program has improved community access roads which enables farmers' access markets faster.

Anti-corruption measures

30. Government of Uganda continued to expand its policy, legal and institutional framework and further strengthened anti-corruption enforcement action.

31. In 2018, Government passed the Zero Tolerance to Corruption Policy 2018, to provide, guide and support a holistic framework for fighting corruption in Uganda for national transformation and development. In 2019, Government developed and adopted the fifth National Anti-Corruption Policy 2019-2024 to guide in the implementation of the Zero Tolerance to Corruption Policy, 2018. In addition, various anti-corruption legislative amendments have been enacted and passed into law including; the Anti-Money Laundering (Amendment) Act, 2017, the PPDA (Amendment) Act, 2021, the Leadership Code (Amendment) Act, 2021; and in 2017, the Judiciary adopted the Anti-Corruption Court Division Case Management Rules.

32. The expansion is also reflected in the institutional framework. In 2018, Government put in place a State House Anti-Corruption Unit (SHACU) to enhance coordination of anti-corruption enforcement actors with greater oversight by the H.E. the President. So far, SHACU has received and referred over 65,000 public complaints since 2018. In 2020, the Leadership Code Tribunal was operationalised and this is intended to enforce the Leadership Code Act (2002) as amended.

33. Anti-corruption enforcement, both criminal and administrative has also progressively been enhanced. For instance, in FY 2020/21 the OAG completed 96.4% of planned audits, the PPDA completed 112.86% planned performance audits, and 120% of planned preparatory audits. The Office of Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP) initiated prosecutor led investigation composed of detectives, financial experts and hand writing experts which has quickened investigation and improved the quality of investigations. In FY 2016/17, 132 cases were handled, in FY 2017/18 161 cases were concluded and for the first half of FY 2018/19 29 cases were concluded. The conviction rate for corruption related cases for FY 2017/18 was 67.1% and 85.7 % for the first half of FY 2018/19. The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) concluded 250 complaints received.

34. The Government has embraced automation of key public services and some anti-corruption enforcement interventions to enhance efficiency. The FIA has rolled out the GoAML that is a fully integrated software developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to be used by financial Intelligence Units across the world to curb money laundering and terrorism financing. This is an electronic analytical and reporting system to all financial institutions, telecommunication companies and 48% of forex bureaus and money remitters. The IGG automated its asset and liabilities declaration system for public leaders and all civil servants, to enable a greater capture and verification of declarations. The PPDA is rolling out the Electronic Government Procurement system as one of the reforms to enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability in procurement and counter corruption. To eliminate impunity, the Anti-Corruption Court Division was strengthened with addition

of more judges. Since FY 2016/17 to FY2020/21, it posited an average case clearance rate of 101.6%.

3. Economic, social and cultural rights

Business and human rights – Recommendations 115, 134, 135 and 138

35. Government has developed and implemented policies aimed at progressively achieving equality including through promoting sustainable tourism in line with SDG 8 SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15.

36. Government has taken steps to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework among others guarantee labour and land rights. The National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR), 2021/2022 to 2025/2026 has been approved by Government and implementation has commenced.

37. Government instituted a Commission of Inquiry on land matters in 2017 which among others looked into the law, processes and procedures by which land is administered and registered in Uganda and the effectiveness of dispute resolution mechanisms available to persons involved in land disputes. The Commission submitted a report which is due to be discussed by Cabinet and whose recommendations will inform reforms in the land sector.

38. The MLHUD together with MoJCA are finalising the National Eviction Guidelines. MLHUD is developing a National Values Databank in order to set uniform values for different areas across the country, which will in turn help to standardise compensation rates and has rolled out the National Information System in the Ministry Zonal Offices. MLHUD has issued customary certificates of ownership to customary land owners, and is in the process of formalising communal land associations in Karamoja in order to provide security of tenure. Women constitute a third of the composition of the area land committees and district land boards in Karamoja to secure interests of women in decisions affecting land.

39. Uganda Wild Life Authority (UWA) has entered into collaborative agreements with private companies and community associations to ensure the communities benefit from exploitation of natural resources by requiring every company exploiting natural resources in the national parks to pay a percentage of fees to develop the local community. UWA has developed a Batwa Trail Agreement with the Batwa development association to uplift the living standards of the Batwa and promote their cultural products. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Tilenga and Karuma Projects has been done to ensure that community issues are addressed before the projects commence; and the EIA for King Fisher is still ongoing.

40. UWA and the Office of the Prime Minister has resettled encroachers evicted from Mt. Elgon National Park to Amanang Kisito. UWA has budgeted to compensate lake Mburo, and compensated and removed people who had encroached on Karuma and Katonga Wild life Reserve. Government has constituted a New Committee to handle the Land disputes in Apaa in East Madi Wild Life Reserve.

Quality education – Recommendations 115.51, 115.123–128

41. Government has continued to implement affirmative action in schools and institutions of higher learning to ensure access of all to quality education in line with SDG 4, SDG 5 and SDG 10. This is through lower admission points for girls at senior one and senior five and additional 1.5 points on admission to higher Institutions of learning.

42. Government has continued to put in place policies to ensure access to education including the revised National Gender in Education Policy, 2016; the National Girls Education Strategic Plan, 2014-2019; and the National Strategy to end Child Marriage and Teenage pregnancy, 2015-2020 which are undergoing review. Government has put in place various interventions to prevent girls from dropping out of school including Guidelines for Senior Women and Senior Men Teachers, 2020 to provide psychosocial support to school girls and boys, Guidelines on Menstrual Hygiene Management for Schools, 2021; and Guidelines on Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy and Re-entry of Teenage Mothers in School,

2020; and has finalized the Regulatory Impact Assessment for school health policy for cabinet approval. Government developed the National Guidelines for Post Primary institutions Guidance and Counselling Programme 2017.

43. Government developed and approved the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Policy (2019) which establishes a new direction and Institutional Framework to guide TVET delivery across all levels, and the Guidelines for Staff Employment in Private Schools and Institutions, 2017. Government has continued to ensure access to education by opening up; public universities at regional level, additional 117 Seed Secondary Schools in sub counties without a public secondary school, and providing grants to 182 Community Secondary Schools to strengthen the Universal Secondary Education (USE) program. Government has implemented a policy of at least one primary school per parish which has enabled 84% of children living within 3km radius to access a primary school.

44. Enrollment in Higher Education increased from 254,043 students in FY 2015/16 to 275,254 students by end of FY 2018/19. Female enrollment increased by 10.5% from 113,210 in FY 2015/16 to 125,064 in FY 2018/19 in the Higher Education sector. Secondary school enrollment increased by 33.8% from a total of 1,457,277 learners in FY 2015/16 to 1,949,248 learners in FY 2019/20. Enrollment of formal BTVET skilling programs increased by 21.8% from 48,072 students in FY 2015/16 to 58,568 students in FY 2019/20. From FY 2016/20 females accounted for 60.9% of learners in non-formal BTVET programs. Enrollment in primary subsector increased by 24.5% from 8,655,924 learners in FY2016/17 to 10,777,846 in FY 2019/2020. Enrollment in UPE increased by 8% (536,376 pupils) from 7,036,366 pupils in FY 2015/2016 to 7,572,742 in FY 2020/2021. The Education Abstract, 2017 indicates that out of the 8,840,589 pupils enrolled in all primary schools, 11.8% were orphans and that there was a total enrolment of 172,846 Special Needs children in primary schools with 52.6 % male and 47.4 % female.

45. In order to improve the quality of education a National Teacher Policy (2019) has been developed to among others to cater for training, recruitment, deployment and motivation of teachers. Secondary Teacher recruitment increased by 9,873 between FY 2015/16 and FY 2020/21 which improved the teacher: student ratio from 1:22 to 1:17 between 2016 to 2020. In addition, primary school teachers' salary has been enhanced from 380,000 UGX in 2016 to 499,684 UGX by May 2020. Government increased budget allocation for inspection and supervision of education institutions by 73% from UGX 8.83 BN in FY 2016/17 to UGX 15.46 BN in FY 2020/21. The total budget allocation to the education sector has increased from 20,401.33BN in financial year 2016/2017 to 35,732.12BN in financial year 2020/2021. Funding of Ugx 14.4BN annually has been provided to procure instructional materials for primary schools during the reporting period.

Right to adequate food – Recommendation 115.35

46. Government has continued to ensure access by all especially the vulnerable to nutritious and sufficient food and is taking steps to end all forms of malnutrition in line with SDG2.

47. In the last five years, Government has been implementing the Uganda multi-sectoral food security and nutrition project in the 15 most malnourished districts in Uganda as indicated by the levels of stunting and dietary diversity. By the end of the last 5yrs the project has succeeded at the rate of 80%.

48. The Government has been implementing the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program since 2013, focused in part on improving household income mainly in the rural most vulnerable persons including women and youth. This has promoted food and income security, facilitated the growth of SMEs and supported local manufacturing. A UBOS National Household Survey of 2016/2017 revealed that 39% of households in Uganda engaged in the Subsistence economy compared to a finding of 68% in 2014 by the National Population and Housing Census. Under the OWC a new program called the Parish Development Model covering all parishes in the country was approved to help these 39% households graduate into the money economy in the next 5 years with effect from 1 July 2021.

49. In addition, the Emyooga presidential initiative on wealth and job creation launched in 2019, aims at economically empowering persons under identified specialized skills groups or belonging to a specific interest group registered in SACCOs at constituency and parish level. Under the initiative, the most vulnerable individuals, are registered into SACCOs, and given money to startup money generating initiatives.

50. The volume of agricultural production of major crops such as bananas and maize has gradually increased over the years. The production of bananas increased from 4,623,000 tonnes in FY 2015/16 to 4,660,000 tonnes in FY 2017/18.

51. Direct Income Support Programme under SAGE has been enhanced through national roll out of the program to all older persons aged 80 and above in order to empower the older persons who are vulnerable. Each beneficiary older person receives 25,000 monthly benefit paid quarterly.

52. The percentage of children below age of 5 who are stunted has reduced from 33% to 29% in FY 2016/17 through encouraging exclusive breast feeding for six months and predominant breastfeeding up to 23 months.

Right to a clean and healthy environment – Recommendation 115.16

53. Government has taken steps to strengthen inclusive and sustainable urbanization including through sustainable planning in line with SDG 3 and SDG 11.

54. Government approved The National Urban Policy, 2017, which seeks to address spatial integrated urban development, facilitate balanced regional development, promote urban competitiveness and productivity for employment creation, promote urban environmental conservation, climate change mitigation and adoption mechanisms and good governance. Consequently, 15 new cities have been created to support balanced growth in the country, climate change guidelines have been prepared to guide climate change fiscal planning; capacity buildings of urban councils continue to be conducted in various regions focusing on urban productivity and competitiveness.

Right to health – Recommendations 115.59, 115.113–115.122

55. Government has continued to take steps to ensure the country achieves universal health care coverage in line with SDG 3, 5, 10 and 17, including robust measures to reduce still births, infant and maternal mortality.

56. Parliament passed the National Health Insurance Bill, 2021, though awaiting ascent by H.E the President as required. The Bill seeks to provide universal health care to all Ugandans by insuring the national population against high and unpredictable cost of quality health care.

57. According to the Health Management Information System (HMIS), there has been a 17% reduction in maternal deaths from 119/100,000 facility delivery in FY 2015/16 to 99/100,000 in FY 2019/20. This is a result of multiple interventions such as improved financing for RMNCAH including implementation of Results Based Financing Schemes, improved supply chain for reproductive health commodities, recruitment of more health workers especially mid-wives, as well as increasing the number of lower level health facilities offering Basic Emergency obstetric and neonatal care among others.

58. Access to healthcare (as measured by the proportion of people within a 5-kilometre radius of a health facility) is currently at 91% (UNHS 2019/20) compared to 84% in 2016, and with 81% of lower level primary health care facilities (Health Centre IVs) offering caesarean section compared to 60% 5 years ago. Quality of perinatal care improvement initiatives such as Maternal and perinatal death reviews to analyze maternal and perinatal deaths and institute measures to address causes of preventable deaths have been scaled up. Although the infant mortality rate is estimated at 43 per 1000 live births (UDHS 2016), other child health indicators such as still birth rates have markedly reduced from 13 per 1000 live births in FY 2015/16 to 9 per 1000 live births in FY 19/2020. (HMIS)

59. Budget allocation to health in the past five years increased from UGX 1.271 trillion in FY 2015/16 to UGX 3.3 trillion in FY 2021/22. Funds are equitably rationed using a budget

allocation formula which incorporates variables such catchment population, disease burden and geographical location. In the last five years, Uganda National Referral Hospitals increased from 2 to 5; Specialised hospitals increased from 2 to 5; 2 general hospitals (Kayunga and Yumbe) have been renovated, expanded, equipped and upgraded to Regional Referral Hospitals. A total of 158 Health Centre (HC) IIs were completed in FY 2018/19 and 2019/20 under the Uganda Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer Reform Program and the remaining 173 are being upgraded in a phased manner under various programs; UgIFT, URMCHIP and Karamoja Infrastructure Development Project.

60. A national HIV Legal-Policy Environment Assessment (LEA) commenced in 2021 to assess the extent to which the existing laws, regulations, and policies ensure protection for those affected by HIV which will inform development of an action plan. Uganda adopted the Test and Treat Policy and effectively optimised treatment with high efficacious Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) for children, adolescents and adults. A third line antiretroviral treatment to manage children, adolescents and adults failing on treatment has been rolled out. Uganda has registered a 42% reduction in HIV new infections from 66,000 in 2015 to 37,000 in 2020. Peri natal infections have dropped from over 20,000 new infections in 2011 to about 5,600 new infections in 2019. There was an increase in antiretroviral treatment coverage from 64% in FY 2015/16 to 89% FY 2019/20.

61. HMIS has been strengthened to ensure complete and timely reporting of quality data to facilitate evidence based decision making. The HMIS tools were revised to address the data needs at all levels and the (District Health Information Software (DHIS) 2 upgraded. Timeliness of the monthly HMIS reporting from health facilities improved by 8% from 79% in 2015/16 to 85% in 2019/20 and completeness of HMIS Reporting (HMIS monthly Report 105) has also been sustained at over 95% completeness. Government has embarked on digitalisation of the health information system and with support from has rolled out the Electronic Medical Record System (EMRS) to 11 Regional Referral Hospitals to enhance efficiency and quality of data. The Ministry of Health is in the process of developing the National Health Information Exchange Registries (Client, Health Workers, Health Facilities and Health Product).

62. The Malaria Indicator Survey showed a 50% drop in prevalence of malaria from 19% in 2014 to 9.1% in 2019. Subsequently, the number of malaria deaths per 100,000 persons reduced from 21 in 2015 to 8.3 in 2019. At least 90% of malaria cases are appropriately managed in health facilities, and in communities to avert deaths that could arise due to delayed initiation of treatment.

4. Civil and political rights

Right to participate in public affairs – Recommendations 115.87, 115.104–105, 115.107–108

63. Government has taken steps to ensure the right of citizens to participate in political and public affairs in line with SDG 16 and 10.

64. Government amended electoral laws such as; The Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act 2020; The Political Parties Organisations (Amendment) Act, 2020; The Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act 2020, The Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, 2020; The Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) (No.2) Act, 2020; The Local Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and The Local Governments (Amendment) (No.2) Act, 2020 to among others incorporate recommendations made by the Supreme Court. These amendments included increasing the time in which to lodge an election petition from 10 to 15 days and determine an election petition from 30 to 45 days, provide for use of technology, use of state media and restricting public officers from engaging in campaigns.

65. Mass registration of citizens has been conducted to ensure everyone participates in political and public affairs. The National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) continues to register all citizens that among others facilitates citizens' right to vote. The Electoral Commission (EC) registered a total of 18,103,603 voters to participate in the 2020/2021 General Elections out of an estimated 19.5 million eligible voters.

66. The appointment of the EC, subject to Article 60 of the Constitution is through nomination of members who are approved by the Appointments Committee of Parliament and are appointed by the President. The Appointments Committee of Parliament is chaired by the Speaker with membership comprising of the Deputy Speaker, Leader of Opposition and members of Parliament representing Political parties and Independents. The Committee is fully empowered to endorse or reject any nomination.

67. The EC accredits observers for the entire electoral process and encourages Political parties/Independent candidates to nominate agents to participate in all electoral activities. The EC further harmonises campaign time tables of all candidates to ensure that they are allocated equal time and space to conduct campaigns. The UHRC in line with its mandate to monitor and report on the human rights situation in the country, is accredited with observer status during elections and monitors and produces a special report on the respect of human rights during the electoral cycle.

68. Mechanisms have been put in place to address contentious issues that arise during the electoral process. The National Consultative Forum (NCF) brings together all political parties; the Elders Forum with representation from senior statesmen and women provides an impartial space for dialogue and provides a non-state platform for citizens and political actors to exchange ideas and build consensus on issues of national importance; and the Inter Party Organisation For Dialogue (IPOD) brings together political parties represented in Parliament to address differences that arise between political parties. During the 2020/21 General elections the EC heard and determined a total of 462 complaints. Several election petitions against election fraud and violence, including the presidential election petition were filed in the various courts; some have been concluded while others are still in the court system.

Freedom from torture – Recommendations 115.4, 115.5, 115.6, 115.7

69. Government has taken steps to put in place effective measures to prevent any acts of torture and other forms of ill treatment in line with SDG 10 and 16.

70. To ensure the effective implementation of the PPTA, Government adopted the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Regulations, 2017 which among others provide a complaint and investigation procedure. A policy shift was made by cabinet for individual MDAs to be responsible for payment of victims of human rights violations. Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) under Budget Call Circular (Ref: BPD 86/107/02), 2016 instructed that all obligations on payment of Court awards arising out of actions of MDAs are to be paid against their Medium-Term Expenditure Framework provisions.

71. Security agencies have taken steps to ensure adherence to the PPTA; the UPDF has a human rights training manual in place that has been integrated into the military training curriculum, and Uganda Police Force (UPF) passed a human rights policy to improve the framework to strengthen the police officers observance of human rights. Prisons Standing Orders 2017 incorporated the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act (PPTA) provisions including prohibition and criminalisation of torture.

72. In order to enhance the capacity of security agencies to prevent acts of torture, Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF), the UPF, Uganda Prisons Service Services (UPS) in collaboration with UHRC, CSOs such as African Centre For Treatment of Torture Victims (ACTV), Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU) have continued to train officers on the use of non-coercive means of extracting information and on the provisions of the PPTA in order to prevent torture. UPDF trained over 10,000 officers on the PPTA and has integrated the PPTA in the military training schools' curriculum. In FY 2020/21 UPF trained 10,515 police officers on PPTA. Over 95% of the prison staff have undergone human rights training as one of the basic modules at Prisons Academy and Training Schools. Over 30 UPS and 85 UPF staff have been sponsored by the GSPS to undertake a diploma course in human rights at the Law Development Centre, Kampala.

73. The UHRC developed an Interpretive Guide to the PPTA which explains the provisions of the Act. A Guide Booklet on application of Human Rights Standards and Principles when enforcing the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act was compiled by HRCU together with the UHRC and the ACTV and distributed to prison officers.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials like posters on the PPTA were produced by HRCU together with copies of the Act.

74. The Legal and Human Rights Department at Prisons Headquarters visits the prison units regularly to sensitise the staff and prisoners on their human rights and obligations. Over the last three years UHRC conducted 3,207 inspections to places of detention; interventions by the UHRC during monitoring visits include demotion of ward leaders who have been accused of harassing and beating up inmates, reprimand of officials including requesting for disciplinary action to be taken against officers and opening up of complaints against officials have been accused among others of acts of torture.

75. UHRC through its tribunals continued to award compensation to victims of human rights violations including torture. In 2016, victims of human rights violations were awarded UGX 370,000,000, UGX 1.66 billion in 2017 and UGX 1.002 billion in 2018. From FY 2018 -2021, 21 Prisons staff have been disciplined and punished. Ministry of Defence has put in place a Compensation Committee to ensure awards to victims of human rights violations are paid in time. UPDF awarded compensation to victims of torture ranging from UGX 1, 500,000 to UGX 14, 000,000. Since 2018, the UPDF has tried and sentenced officers in over 10 cases. In FY 2017 /18 the Professional Standards Unit of the UPF investigated and concluded 461 cases related to corruption and human rights violations including torture that were reported. There is a dedicated desk at UPF to follow-up on court awards and ensure timely payments.

5. Vulnerable persons – Recommendations 115.54, 115.60, 115.77, 115.99, 115.111

76. The Government is committed to implementation of laws and policies for all including measures taken for equal opportunities for women and persons with disabilities in the economic and social development of the country in line with SDG5 and 10.

77. The Equal opportunities policy 2006 as amended in 2020 addresses all issues of affirmative action for the vulnerable and marginalized groups including; women, children, refugees, and albinos. The Policy has its Action Plan which guides all stakeholders in addressing issues of vulnerable groups.

78. Government amended the Children Act of 2016 and approved the National Child Policy to further strengthen measures to protect children's rights. Government developed The National Strategy for ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnanc, National Multi-sectoral Coordination Framework for Adolescent Girls (2017/18–2021/22) and The National Re-Integration Guidelines for Children without Parental Care (2020), to among others enhance efforts to protect children's right to education.

79. Government has increased the coverage of SAGE from 15 districts in 2015 to the entire country in 2021. By 2019, 157,949 older persons, 94,544 women and 62,949 male had been reached in 61 districts to now 146 districts with 304,155 beneficiaries; each older person is supported with UGX 25,000 on a monthly basis. The YLP supported 21,308 projects, 33% of the projects are in agriculture, 28% are in trade and 21% in industry. A total of 251,940 youth benefiting from the programme and of these 46% are female.

80. NIRA is fast tracking registration of births within the boundaries of Uganda to help in identification of citizens; 30% of births in the population have been registered. NIRA has 25,429,483 registered persons with National Identification Numbers assigned and 18,467,593 (16 years and above) that qualify for the National ID cards of which 16,143,593 have been issued with cards.

81. Government is committed to reducing imbalances through promotion of equal opportunities for all. Over the period, EOC resolved 1,575 complaints above a target of 1,000 representing a performance of 157.5%. In addition, service delivery to vulnerable groups improved as result of mainstreaming and enforcement of gender and equity budgeting across government. The delivery of services to vulnerable people and hard to reach places improved by 5% from 60% in FY 2016/17 to 65% in FY 2019/20.

82. Interventions have been undertaken to protect Persons with Albinism. The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 recognises albinism as a category of disability under schedule 3(7) and provides for enforcement and implementation of the laws of Uganda without

discrimination on the basis of disability. Children with albinism have a right to access, benefit and participate in all development programmes in the country. The Act also protects children with albinism from all forms of human rights violations and abuse.

83. Parliament passed the prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Act 2020. In 2016, the National Action Plan against Child Sacrifice was passed. Government has recognised Persons with Albinism under persons with disabilities categories and has given a tax waiver on sun screens; and 60 Persons With Albinism received free eye examination, two pairs of lenses each and one pair of sun glasses at Grade B hospital in Entebbe. On every 13th June, Government marks the International Albinism Awareness day. In 2020, the Parliamentary Commission raised UGX 35,000,000 towards construction of the Albinism Centre.

Women's rights – recommendations 115.8, 115.9, 115.10, 115.12, 115.13

84. Government has put in place several measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all fields including political, social, economic and cultural in line with SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 5, and SDG 8.

85. Government has taken steps to enforce the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation, Act, 2010 including arresting and prosecution of perpetrators; rehabilitation and awareness raising to prevent all forms of discrimination against women. UHRC, EOC, National Council for Disability (NCD) and MGLSD have continued to raise awareness to prevent all forms of discrimination against women. In 2016, UHRC conducted community dialogue meetings in 67 districts, 56 districts in 2017 and 82 districts in 2018 to create awareness on child marriage, forced marriage and FGM.

86. In 2007, Government revised the National Gender Policy, with the goal to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment as an integral part of socio-economic development. Government passed The Sexual and Gender Based Violence Policy, 2016, and Multimedia Strategy Against Gender Based Violence, 2016 aimed at promoting and sustaining community involvement in the prevention of Gender Based Violence and the National Male Involvement Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence, 2017.

87. UWEP empowers women economically by assisting them to access credit to establish their businesses at zero interest. According to the Annual Program Reports of FY 2018/19, a total of 8,247 projects for women have been financed with 103,770 beneficiaries. Among the beneficiaries were single mothers, young mothers, women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, women heading households, women slum dwellers, women living in hard to reach areas and ethnic minorities.

Children's rights – Recommendations 115.20, 115.36–115.38, 115.79, 115.80, 115.84–115.86, 115.98

88. Government has put in place various interventions to promote and protect rights of children in order to ensure that all children develop to their fullest potential in line with SDG 3, 4, 5, 8, and 16.

89. Government developed the National Child Policy 2020, the National Social Protection Policy 2015 among others to curb cases of child, early, and forced marriages and teenage pregnancy and any other emerging forms of child rights violations and abuse. The Children Act, 2016 which compliments the Employment Act, 2006 prohibits employment of children.

90. Government is drafting an inclusive education policy to cater for children with disabilities in schools and developed a National Action Plan on Children with Disabilities, 2018. The National Children's Authority has been set up; and Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) passed the Kampala Child Protection Ordinance, 2019 to address trafficking of children from rural to urban areas by engaging them in petty businesses and soliciting for money along streets.

91. In 2017, The Judiciary proposed the establishment of Specialised Gender Based Violence Courts to handle GBV cases in order to foster a uniform approach to treatment of offenders and victims of violence. A total of 2,069 cases were disposed of in special sessions

that took place from 2018–2020. Specialised courts for children are operational at regional level and particular magistrates are responsible for handling cases of children. Local councils have been established to try juvenile offenders at the community level. Over 2,957 child abuse cases were received through the Uganda Child Helpline of which 550 escalated for management.

92. Government has put in place separate detention centers for juvenile offenders. However, emphasis is placed on diversion of children where appropriate and using detention as a last resort which has led to an increase in the diversion rate to 76.3% in 2018.

93. In 2019, Government introduced a resettlement programme for street children; and, strengthened measures to ensure that children living on the streets and in foster care institutions have the right to live in a family and have access to health and education. During FY 2020/21, Government rehabilitated and resettled 113 street children; supported 550 children in conflict with the law to attend courts of law; supported nine (9) institutions with food and non-food items; and provided food and non-food items in 2 skills centers targeting 66 youth among others.

Persons with disabilities – Recommendations 115.129–115.131

94. Government enacted The Mental Health Act, 2018 with the aim to improve the treatment and care of persons with mental illness in Uganda and the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 which amongst others provides for the respect and promotion and other human rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities and reestablishes the National Council for Disability as the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCD) and provides for job quotas. During FY, 2020/21, 243 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) groups benefited from the special grant for PWDs amounting to UGX 1.239 billion reaching 943 males and 906 females. Government increased resources allocated to the NCD to monitor and coordinate disability related work. The NCD has compiled an Annual Disability Report and has conducted research and disseminated findings on economic empowerment and participation of PWDs in order to advocate for disability inclusion.

95. The Judiciary has been at the fore in clarifying and upholding rights of persons with disabilities. In Centre For Health, Human Rights & Development & Anor V Attorney General Constitutional Petition (No.64 of 2011) UGCC 14 (30 October 2015) court found that the use of words “idiot” and “imbecile” in the Penal Code Act and the Trail on Indictment Act are in contravention of articles 20, 21(1) (2) (3), 24 and 28 of the Constitution by reason of their being derogatory, dehumanizing and degrading, and were accordingly struck out and modified in respect of PWDs.

96. EOC, UHRC, NCD have continued to raise awareness on rights of PWDs; Television stations employ sign language interpreters, annual reports of the UHRC are printed in braille and Government has been at the forefront of celebration of the International day of PWDs on 3rd December in order to raise awareness of rights of PWDs. In addition, the PPDA Act 203 was amended in 2019 to reserve 30% of public procurement contracts to PWDs, women and youths.

Migrants and Refugees – Recommendations 115.61, 115.132, 115.81, 115.133

97. Uganda's Refugee policy aims at empowering refugees and grants a wide range of socio-economic rights, aimed at making refugees self-reliant. Uganda, has a strategic settlement Transformation Agenda which is a holistic integrated framework for refugee management that takes cognizance of the protracted nature of displacement and the impact on host communities. Uganda is one of the first countries in the world to align its Refugee response agenda with to the National Development Plan upholding the principle of “Leaving no one Behind”.

98. All Refugee settlements have services such as police protection, health facilities, psychosocial services, legal services and livelihood support which provide a safe space for refugees especially girls and women. On 25th January 2019, MoH launched the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan, 2019-2024 (HSIRRP) which is modelled along the national health priorities, principles of strengthening health systems and integrated service

provision to ensure equitable and well-coordinated access to health services for refugees and host communities.

99. With support from Regional/National Referral Hospitals to the settlements, specialized outreach services are routinely available and carried out by specialist medical associations and medical schools. At the community level, Village Health Teams (VHTs) have been established in refugee settlements in line with the MoH's strategy. VHTs are responsible for health promotion, health education, identification and referral of sick/malnourished individuals and follow-up in the community, including linking the sick/malnourished community members to ambulatory service.

100. As Government continues to provide integrated services to all refugees and there is a proposal to have some health centers in the settlements taken over by the district local government, however this proposed transition is of concern without funding for sustainability.

101. The Government has also provided free of charge COVID-19 testing and vaccination to the refugee communities.

102. The Police Refugee Coordination Desk at UPF Headquarters coordinates refugee issues in the Refugee settlements across the country, ensures security in the settlements and follows up on all investigations concerning refugees. Mobile court sessions have been conducted by the Judiciary to increase access to justice, referral systems at the districts have been put in place, GBV information data collection system has been set up, a toll-free VAC helpline, Sauti #116 has been put in place, and a Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) has been put in place to address some of the refugee complaints.

103. Government recognises the various opportunities that aliens who voluntarily migrate to Uganda bring towards national transformation. Government is in the process of developing a migration policy to ensure that all migrant workers enjoy their full economic, social and cultural rights. As part of its efforts to strengthen capacity of Immigration officers and Integrated Border Management, government with the support of IOM set up the Immigration Training Academy in 2017. More than 500 immigration officers have so far been trained.

104. Migrant workers are allowed to engage in any form of work depending on the class of work permits they hold. Uganda currently offers nine different classes of worker permits to various categories of migrant workers in the country.

105. Government has taken various steps to address trafficking in persons including the passing of the National Action Plan (NAP) for the Prevention on Trafficking in Persons (2019-2024) and the National Referral Guidelines for Management of Victims of Trafficking; setting of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Department of the Uganda Police Force (July 2019) and establishment of trafficking-specific desks in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP). In 2018, Government trained 303 frontline officials on anti-trafficking laws; investigated 286 and 120 cases in 2018 and 2019 respectively; and convicted 6 traffickers in 2018 and 15 in 2019. MGLSD has put in place a management information system of all companies recruiting persons to work abroad which to date has 151 companies. Government has cancelled licenses of companies engaged in trafficking. Government has continued to facilitate repatriation of citizens including through the provision of replacement documents.

6. Human rights defenders – Recommendations 115.94, 115.95, 115.96, 115.106, 115.110

106. Government has continued to take steps to provide a conducive and enabling environment for Human Rights Defenders as partners in development in line with SDG 16.

107. The NGO Act, 2016 was amended among others to provide a conducive and enabling environment for the NGO sector and to strengthen their partnership with government. The governance framework of the NGO Bureau was strengthened by setting it up as an autonomous organisation with distinct powers and a board of directors, where the NGO sector has two representatives.

108. UHRC and other HRDs have reviewed various bills including the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill 2017 which impact on the operating environment of HRDs and have presented their positions to various oversight mechanisms including Parliament.

109. UHRC set up a Human Rights Defenders Desk which monitors and reports on issues concerning HRDs. UHRC received and investigated complaints of human rights violations from HRDs including the media.

110. However as partners in development, the CSOs are expected to work within the laws of Uganda to enable smooth operation of Government programmes.

7. National human rights institutions and democratic institutions – Recommendations 115.39–143, 115.83

111. Government has taken steps to strengthen national human rights and democratic institutions in line with SDG 16.

112. The UHRC Act is currently under review; with a view to incorporate the Paris Principles on independence, composition and funding of NHRIs. UHRC budget allocation increased from UGX 13,701bn in FY 2015/16 to UGX 18,903bn in FY 2019/20. EOC budgetary allocations increased from UGX 12.7 Billion in FY 2018/19 to UGX 13.2 billion in FY 2019/20.

113. The independence of the Judiciary has been strengthened by the enactment of the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020 making it a self-accounting institution and providing for its effective and efficient administration. Parliament passed a resolution to increase the number of high court judges to 82.

8. Human rights education and awareness – Recommendations 115.89–91, 115.93

114. Government has put in place various interventions to promote human rights through human rights education and awareness raising in line with SDG 5, and 16.

115. UPDF, UPF, UPS, and ODPP in collaboration with Centre for Domestic Prevention (CEDOVIP) and Refugee Law Project among others has built capacity of senior and top management Officers and prosecutors in handling SGBV and child related matters; the Domestic Violence Act, 2010 and the rules to enhance prosecutors' skills in handling cases of domestic violence. The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has continued to educate public and judicial officers on law and administration of justice including education on rights. Since 2016 public awareness has been created on FGM, SGBV in Kapchorwa and other areas; and the community has been sensitized through radios and community awareness activities.

116. In FY 2017/18, JLOS provided support to activities aimed at addressing Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) including printing of the PF 3 used to record evidence of sexual and any other physical violence and is an evidentiary tool to corroborate the testimony of witnesses during investigation and adjudication. The JLOS supported medical doctors to carry out medical examination, treatment and appearance in court during the adjudication process.

117. UPF carried out investigations of SGBV cases throughout the country. The Child and Family Protection Department (CFPD) has been facilitated to support victims of SGBV through counselling and basic psychosocial support services. During the third quarter of FY 2018/19 the CFPD registered a total of 6,158 cases, of these 3,092 victims /suspects were counselled, 2062 cases were referred to other stakeholders and 372 cases were taken to court.

9. Recommendation on human rights issues generally – Recommendation 115.44

118. Government remains committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. In addition, Government has established an enabling environment for respect of human rights facilitated by a robust legal and institutional framework. There is dedicated political goodwill to implement compliance and respect of human rights in line with SDG 16.

119. UHRC and EOC continue to carry out civic education of the public on their rights. In 2016, a total of 102,013 persons from Government institutions and grass root communities

were sensitized which was a 132% increase from 43,878 in 2015. In 2017, UHRC sensitized a total of 23,469 people through 178 community meetings conducted in 56 districts with the attendance of women increasing by 33% from 11,030 of 2015.

120. The Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights has summoned various MDAs to follow up on implementation of recommendations of the UHRC and has played a central role in demanding for accountability from government. The Committee visits and assesses conditions in places of detention and has been at the forefront of development of the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019, which seeks to enforce rights and freedoms guaranteed under Chapter Four of the Constitution.

10. Cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms and international community – Recommendations 115.45–115.47

121. Government has continued to engage in constructive cooperation with the international community and the human rights mechanisms in line with SDG17.

122. Uganda submitted reports on the CAT, the ICCPR and the CEDAW. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights, United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund; United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Development Programme have continued to provide financial and technical support to Government in realizing the SDGs and sensitise on the need for laws to promote and protect human rights. International Organisation for Migration and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continue to build capacity of MDAS on issues of trafficking in persons and smuggling with key MDAs such as Ministry of Internal Affairs, ODPP, and UHRC among others.

123. In addition, Government received financial and technical support from ILO to amend the Employment Act, UNICEF supported in the amendment of Children Act, and OHCHR in the development of NAP on Business and Human Rights.

C. Human rights developments since November 2016

Policy framework

124. Government passed the NDP III to guide delivery of aspirations articulated in Uganda Vision 2040. The goal of the NDP III (2020/21–2024/25) is *Increased Household Incomes and Improved Quality of Life of Ugandans*. This goal will be pursued under the overall theme of Sustainable Industrialization for inclusive growth, employment and sustainable wealth creation. The NDP III builds on the efforts made under NDP II, on the application of the HRBA by all sectors, MDAs, as well as local Government. The NDP III points out that the development approach will among others focus on the HRBA to planning, budgeting and implementation to ensure inclusive sustainable development. Government has developed the National Social Protection Policy, 2015 to address risks and vulnerabilities.

Legislative framework

125. Various legislation that promote the enjoyment of human rights have been enacted and these include the Leadership Code (Amendment) Act, 2017, National Environment Act 2019, the Anti Money Laundering (Amendment) Act 2017, the Labour Disputes (Arbitration and Settlement) (Amendment Act), 2020, and the Land Disputes (Arbitration And Settlement) (Amendment Act 2020).

Mechanisms

126. Parliament has set up mechanisms to promote and protect human rights. A Committee on Equal Opportunities was established and is mandated to monitor and promote measures designed to enhance the equalisation of opportunities and improvement in the quality of life and status of all peoples including marginalised groups. The Leadership Code Tribunal which is responsible for enforcing the Leadership Code was set up and members were appointed. An Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) in State House has been set up to support the existing anti-corruption agencies

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the promotion and protection of human rights

127. The Government of Uganda's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been applauded worldwide. Government deliberately prioritized the right to life because without this right the other rights cannot be enjoyed. Government through Ministry of Health inevitably put in place Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

128. In March 2020, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Government like in many other countries, came up with strategies and guidelines to fight the pandemic which included; suspension of public transport, closure of places of entertainment, schools, places of worship, markets and public rallies, online learning was introduced, and relief aid distributed to vulnerable persons. The Anti-COVID-19 National Taskforce was duly established to help with the enforcement of the Ministry of Health guidelines and presidential directives geared towards public safety. Government has gradually lifted some of the public safety measures. However, under the Public Health (Control of COVID-19) (Amendment No. 3) Rules, 2020, public gatherings are limited to a maximum of 200 people and music concerts are still banned.

V. Conclusion

129. Government remains committed to the promotion and protection of human rights which is evidenced by the policies, laws, implementation strategies and accountability mechanisms in the event of human rights violations or abuses. The challenges in mainstreaming human rights in policies, laws and budgets; implementation of various policies and laws; and strengthening of accountability mechanisms can be addressed through constructive cooperation with partners and the international community.
