

## **MGOS RESPONSE AND QUESTIONS FROM THE CSOs IN UGANDA TO THE VNR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA**

The major group stakeholders thank the government of Uganda for preparing and submitting an extensive Voluntary National Review Report in this HLPF 2020 on implementation of the SDGs. We compliment the government for the inclusive efforts in consultation with civil society, youth, and people living with disabilities including piloting the Local voluntary review (LVR) in Ngora district eastern Uganda among others and recommended LVR rolled out to all districts to improve inclusiveness currently at 72.2% based in Kampala. We are encouraged that Uganda's third National Development Plan (2020/2021 - 2024/2025), highlights how the country prioritizes critical policy approaches towards leaving no body behind. These include a sustainable agro industrial-based approach as well as an area-based commodity approach to economic development. We commend the government of Uganda for the progress made on SDG 13 and challenge government to do more on stagnated SDGs 1, 2, 4, 6 and 16 mostly affecting the poor and vulnerable groups. We ask the government to prioritise and increase funding for the agricultural sector that employs over 72.6% Ugandans and fast track the shalved land reforms if we are to leave no one behind. We acknowledge the country's primary obstacles in advancing progress towards sustainable development, such as the COVID 19 pandemic amidst prevailing poverty, vulnerability and inequalities in accessing resources. However we also recognize the opportunities that have been unlocked during this period such as re-strategizing on how Uganda can strengthen required resilience to withstand such shocks.

We recommend increased systems of community participation, transparency and accountability in public programs aimed at sustainable development. Vulnerable groups, indigenous people and both rural and urban communities should be able to participate in the planned agro industrial approaches by strengthening rural urban linkages. We recognize the challenges faced in ensuring accurate data collection and propose deliberate digital transformation to minimize possible exclusions and facilitate responsive programs. We commend Uganda on existing policies and legal frameworks adopted and being locally implemented for the fulfillment of SDG targets. We recommend putting into action the pledge of leaving no one behind by fully implementing human rights obligations including the recognition and protection of the right to land, territories and resources of different social groups often left behind. Implementation of Gender Strategy for National Land Policy Implementation, and adopting National Eviction guidelines are some examples of concrete steps to leave no one behind. National and regional plans and priorities should focus on economic growth and integrate environment protection plans and strengthen democracy and human rights so as to attain sustainable development.

### **Key questions**

- What is the plan of the government to increase community participation, transparency and accountability in public programs aimed at sustainable development? Vulnerable groups, indigenous people and both rural and urban communities should be able to participate in the planned agro industrial approaches.
- What is the plan of the government in putting into action the pledge of leaving no one behind by fully implementing human rights obligations including the

recognition and protection of the right to land, territories and resources of different social groups often left behind? Implementation of Gender Strategy for National Land Policy Implementation, and adopting National Eviction guidelines are some examples of concrete steps to leave no one behind. National and regional plans and priorities should focus on economic growth and integrate environment protection plans and strengthen democracy and human rights so as to attain sustainable development.