**Report of Proceedings of the**

**8th NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORUM: Leveraging Green Growth for Uganda’s Development**

**Thursday 23rd November, 2017**

1. **Introduction**

The Uganda Vision 2040 aspires to pursue economic development and socioeconomic transformation premised on the principles of a green economy such as equity, environment sustainability, resource efficiency, climate change adaptation and mitigation and inclusiveness. Accordingly, the National Planning Authority in partnership with the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Water and Environment with financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy (UGGDS). The Uganda Green Growth Development strategy seeks to operationalize the tenets of a green economy as espoused in the Uganda Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan and covers a time horizon of fifteen years. An implementation roadmap/action plan of the strategy was also developed by the Global Green Growth Institute to sequence interventions for the short term, medium term and long term.

The 8th National Policy Development Forum organised by NPA under the theme "Leveraging Green Growth for the transition to Middle Income Status" on Wednesday 22nd November 2017 at Imperial Royale Hotel officially launched the UGGDS. The 8th forum follows the 7th NDPF whose theme was “Unlocking Uganda’s Export Potential” and discussed the export plan to operationalize the NDPII export oriented growth strategy.

1. **Objectives of the Forum**

The overall purpose of the forum was to enrich the discussion of the UGGDS before it is launched to officially kick start Uganda’s transition to a green economy.

Specifically, the launch is envisaged to:

1. Create political will and ownership of the UGGDS;
2. Kick start the dissemination process of the UGGDS
3. Create public awareness among all stakeholders about Uganda’s green economy transition blue print;
4. Rally state and non-state actors including development partners about the new development approach for integration in their programming, planning, budgeting processes and country assistance frameworks
5. Demonstrate national commitment to pursuing a green growth development pathway
6. **Forum Participants**

Forum participants included the following: Politicians, Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Development Partners, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, Academia, students and Ugandan citizens.

1. **Programme of the forum**

The program was designed to provide a platform for knowledge sharing and for participants to engage and contribute. It included remarks which were made by the following: The first Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Moses Ali who represented the Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda as the Guest of Honour; Dr Okot Geofrey who represented the chairman, NPA and also made remarks on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; the country director UNDP Mrs Almaz Gebru, Amboassador Attilio Pacifici, and Eng. Richard Chong – Ministry of Water and Environment. It also included a presentation on "Leveraging Green Growth for the transition to Middle Income Status” which was given by Mr Ronald Kagwa, Manager Production and Trade NPA, a panel discussion on Green Economy and its Implications for Uganda and a plenary session to allow the participants give their views on the topic of discussion. The forum was well moderated by Mr. Samoson Kasumba who is an investigative journalist.

1. **Summary of Proceedings** 
   1. **Opening Remarks and Speeches**

Ms. Almaz Gebru, the UNDP country Director gave UNDP’s remarks on behalf of Ms. Rosa Malango. She acknowledged that adopting the green growth model presents the most appropriate alternative to generate economic, social and environmental development outcomes. She commended the Government of Uganda for learning from the mistakes of other countries who have recently industrialised and chosing the business unusual model to transform the country. She noted that the government has provided the necessary policy and legal environment for promotion of green growth and ensuring their implementation is key. She made three points for consideration; i) requirement of all sectors in implementation of the strategy, mobilisation of Ugandans to change their production and consumption patterns; Capacity to implement needs to be build at all levels progressively if the fruits of the strategy are to be realised; ii) resource mobilisation particularly domestic resource mobilisation is a top priority and participation of private sector is crucial iii) implementation of social equiality particularly gender equality in important. She mentioned some of the efforts being undertaken together with the government in implementing green growth initiatives for example the Songhai Model in Kapiringisa District which empowers women, youth and communities to sustainable harness for natural resources for improved livelihoods job creation and building entrepreneurship capacity. She concluded by thanking government for its leadership in preparing the strategy and recognised the strong partnership of NPA, Ministry of Water and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. She also thanked GGGI for joining UNDP to support the process and pledged UNDPs commitment in supporting Uganda’s efforts in pursing green growth.

Amboassador Attilio Pacifici, the European Union Ambassador to Uganda welcomed Uganda’s commitment in embarking on pursuing a green growth path and commended leadership particularly in advancing gender sustainability and social inclusiveness. He informed that the EU has already been supporting green growth inititative such as the solar production grand scheme, commercial tree planting, power generation and distribution projects and SME microbusiness development funds for that business who can play a key role in development of agricultural value chains. He mentioned that the EU will continue to support an inclusive green economy and that 100 million EU is available to that effect. Specific interventions are yet to be identifies but will be in line with the five priority areas of the strategy. The ambassador expressed concern that despite the funding gap for the strategy being ie. 11Billion USD over the next 14 years, the EU funds although little are a first step towards implementing SD initiatives. He argued for joint efforts to support several stakeholder to develop green opportunities and also accompany them with investment. He informed that the EU has developed financial instruments specifically aiming at catalysing private sector investment which is the recently approved EU investment plan to which Uganda can benefit from. Lastly, he expressed he’s enthusiasm to the EU being a partner in Uganda’s transition to secure a green and prosperous future.

1. **Presentation on Leveraging Green Growth for the transition to Middle Income Status**

This was opened by the Executive Director NPA who thanked members for coming in big numbers to discuss how Uganda can go green. He mentioned that the launch of the strategy is a milestone for Uganda as most East African Countries for example Kenya had already embarked on going green. The ED urged for everyone to start rethinking the current development model to make it more sustainable. He added that achieving growth requires an understanding of the need to protect Mother Nature and the society.

The presentation for the forum was made by Mr Ronald Kagwa, Manager for Production and Trade Planning NPA. He opened by saying that the presentation would attempt to answer the following questions: What is the role of our natural capital in wealth creation?; What is the social and environmental cost of the current economic growth pathway?; How do we attain economic growth with greater employment, efficiency, competitiveness, sustainable and inclusive manner?; What is green growth?; What opportunities does green growth present for Uganda’s transition to middle income status?; What are the trade-offs of Uganda’s transition to a green economy? And How can Uganda position itself to tap green growth opportunities?.

Mr Kaggwa explained the role of natural capital assets in Uganda’s development process and noted that the current extensive exploitation and use of these resources for production and maintenance of livelihoods is unsustainable. Progress has been made in reducing poverty, increasing literacy levels and access to electricity among others however this has come with high costs to social and environment sustainability and if Uganda’s GDP is adjusted to account for the loss of natural capital and environmental degradation growth will be very low or negative.

He went on to say that these persistent challenges require rethinking of the current growth model to one that addresses the multi-dimensional development issues i.e the green growth model. The model unpacks sustainable development principles into interventions and actions that can be implemented.

The UGGDS has been developed to provide guidance towards Uganda’s strategic direction to green growth. For Uganda, the strategy defines green grotwh as: “an inclusive low emissions economic growth process that emphasizes effective and efficient use of the country’s natural, human, and physical capital while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide for present and future generations”. He emphasised that green growth is not a substitute for sustainable development but rather an innovative approach for accelerating the achievement of sustainable development.

In attempting to answer why green growth is important for Uganda, he gave a comparison between the cost of inaction and the opportunities Uganda would gain if it went green. He showed that implementation of development plans with disregard to the green growth interventions will result into continued structural change for Uganda however, GHG emissions to rise by 25% (2020), and 150% (2040) far above the NDC target of 28% over the same period and the existing vulnerabilities will be compounded. Whereas if action is taken, there will be an additional cost in the short term with enormous long term benefits that outweigh the initial cost. The country will growth at 10% above the Business as Usual (BAU), additional four (4) million green jobs in clean energy, city level infrastructure investments, waste management, efficient irrigation and agroforestry will be created and there will be a reduction in future greenhouse gas emissions by 28%, equivalent to 30.4 million tons of CO2 emissions, among other benefits.

He then highlighted the opportunities for green growth as those sectors with the greatest green growth potential multiplier effect. These include: Agriculture, energy, planned urbanization (green cities), Transport and Natural Capital.

The policy options for each area included the following:

1. **Sustainable agriculture production and value chains:** Support increased access to irrigation facilities; Upscale sustainable land management (SLM) practices, Upgrade value chains for strategic enterprises
2. **Capitalizing on Uganda’s Natural Capital:** Tourism Development; Sustainable Forestry Management; Sustainable Wetlands; Optimal Water Resources Management
3. **Planned Green Cities:** Construct affordable housing estates outside flood plains in strategic and regional cities; Undertake city-wide slum upgrading; Upgrade the existing and expand the national sewerage system for the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area, among others
4. **Energy for green growth:** Commission an assessment on the potential for large scale clean power plants; Develop and promote energy saving technologies such as energy saving cook stoves and bulbs; Carryout an energy audit for to assess efficiency among industries and public institutions, among others.
5. **Sustainable transport:** Support planned multi-modal and mass transport systems for urban areas comprising of the Bus Rapid Transport system (BRT) and the Light Railway Transport (LRT); support development, utilisation and interconnectivity of the planned national, regional transport connectivity, Standard Gauge Railway for the country, among others.

He concluded the presentation by mentioning the need for Uganda to reposition its self to tap the green growth opportunities. This should be done through; strengthening the role of the state through; Targeted Public investments, Government procurement, political support for policy reforms and enforcement of regulations and standards, strong and effective institutions; Resource mobilization, Cooperation and partnerships at all levels, technology transfers, managing population growth, and dealing with psychological and behavior change (mindset and attitudinal change)

1. **Panel Session**

The panel was composed of economists, environmentalists and policy makers who briefly discussing their opinions on the Green Economy and its Implications for Uganda. In general, the panellists were in agreement of Uganda going green and that the strategy provides a direction towards doing so. Below are the views expressed by the five panellists.

In terms of the key enablers for the transition to green growth, Dr. Madina Guloba, EPRC emphasised the need for Uganda to industrialise sustainably while implementing green growth. Embarking on industrialisation requires safeguarding the environment and ensuring social inclusiveness. She called for government leadership in this process and harmony between the policy makers and the technocrats and the think tanks in this process. She explained that despite there being winners and losers in the transition process, there should be a balance. She further explained this by using the example of the Ban on the “kavera” which is likely to put many producers out of business. The introduction of sustainable technologies by green growth will offset this situation enabling producers to take on these technologies. Dr. Madina finalised by saying that businesses however should have a buy in to this process.

Ms. Rose Twine Country Director Eco-Stove gave herperspective as a representative of the private sector. She mentioned that despite the renewable sector business being profitable, the sector still requires an enabling environment. An example of this being the eco stove which utilises volcanic rocks and solar. She explained that taxes are put on the lights, batteries but no not on the solar panel which cannot work without the rest. This is a complete component yet others are taxed. She urged government to revise the way taxes are imposed on such goods.

Dr Tom Okutut, Executive Director NEMA briefly described the role NEMA plays in the sustainable management of the country’s natural capital. He firstly expressed he’s appreciation on the topic of the day stating that the discussion of the environment should be in a holistic manner. He explained that the first component of the environment is the human being and therefore NEMA regulates the behaviour of the human being while they utilise the natural resource. He stressed the need for the transformative thinking that the environment is the driver/ transformer of Uganda’s growth needs.

Mr. James Banabe Ag. Director at MEMD explained greening Uganda’s Energy Mix for increased availability and access by all. He informed the audience that most of Uganda’s energy is from green sources however the challenge of low access remains. The Ag. Director share some of the strategies government therefore put in place to increase access. These include expanding extension of the grid and introducing other alternatives like solar for isolated households. He called for interventions from partners, increased awareness of options and how to access them.

Mr Peter Okubal, Country Director GGGI shared experience on implementation of green growth inititatives. He started by mentioning that the transition to green growth in the short term is costly however continuing with business as usual will have longer term costs such as persistent vulnerability. The example he gave was that of Ethiopia that developed the Climate Resilience and Green Economy (CRGG) strategy which has four pillars. The first pillar he explained was Agriculture sustainability and Land Use Management. He mentioned that because of implementing this, Ethiopia by 2016 had achieved full self-sufficiency and was producing about 30 trillion tonnes of cereals to meet the basic food needs of its country. The second pillar which is protection and rehabilitation of the ecosystem, has enabled Ethiopia to attract investment. Third pillar which is investment in renewable energy has led to Ethiopia being the 2nd largest country is Sub-Sahara Africa producing clean energy of about 3000MW from its 3 mega dams. Investment in industry, transport and cities, last pillar has transformed Ethiopia and created connectivity between all major cities, provided low cost housing introduce the mass transport system.

As the panel session came to an end, the following where quick remarks by each panellist:

Dr Tom Okurut remarked that one major area of investment that drives change is adoption of renewable energy which will have derivative elements of growth everywhere.

Ms. Rose Twiine exclaimed that if funds were available they would scale up the companies current efforts and equip women and youth and reach the goal of increasing employment.

Dr Madina Guloba emphasised that rather than starting to plan, the sectors should start implementing the strategy. Additionally, awareness should be created to increase buy in for green growth and it benefits. She concluded by saying that as a think tank, data is required to ensure measurement of results.

**As part of the panel session, selected members from the audience were chosen to provide additional information on on-going green initiatives in their respective institutions. These were as follows:**

**Mr David Kiyingi from the procurement Policy Management Department of MoFPED** explained how Uganda can buy green. He informedthe audience that the ministry has gone a step ahead by developing the draft national pubic sector procurement policy which is advocating for the introduction of sustainable public sector procurement. He mentioned that procurement law is being amended to take into consideration green procurement.

**Mr Emmanuel Mangeni, ED Ultimate Gas** discussed how Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) can be used for greening. He reported that a study has been concluded on how LPG gas be exploited. The study recommends scaling up the use of LPG from 1% of households to 25% within a period of five to ten years when oil production has started. As a recomnedation to government, in order to move citizens to using LPG, gas cylinders should be bought for citizes and also speed up LPG development.

**Dr Rivoatus Twinomuhangi. MUK Center for Climate Research and Innovations** shared the conducted a study on the economic assessment of climate change. This study found that the cost of inaction is 20 times much higher than cost of adaptation. Other areas he mentioned are in research of crop resistant varieties, short courses. He concluded that the issue of climate change should be adopted from the education perspective where young people should be educated on the basics of the environment and importance of ecosystems.

1. **Plenary Discussions**

The moderator opened the flow to the audience to allow participants make comments and pose questions on the presentation and the Technical Discussions. Key among the discussion included the following:

1. There is need to explain how the green process will ensure social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability?
2. There is appreciation of GG being dictated as profits/gains rather than from the regulation perspective. However the discussion should explain how this will be done is in detail.
3. The major incentive for investing in green growth should be assessed and adopted as a practice in Uganda. Eg how profitable is investing in agroforestry.
4. Poor implementation especially timeliness and decision making remains a challenge.
5. How can the ecological footprint inequalities be regulated given the concept of rightsa and freedom, loopholes in regulation and low enforcement of the legal system.
6. The contribution of the youth in this transition should be acknowledged and clear strategies and interventions identifies to empower the youth
7. The conflict between the technocrats and politicians is low compared to the competition in the private sector. There is need to look at the competing needs within the private sector.
8. **Closing Remarks** 
   1. **Remarks by Minister of Finance Planning and Economic Development**

Mr Okot Geofrey made the remarks on behalf of the Minister who was unable to make it for the forum. He welcomed members to the launch of the strategy and mentioned the forum’s importance to debating on the critical path of achieving sustainable development through green growth. He mentioned that environment sustainability has always been seen as trade-offs to economic growth, with the logic being to develop first and clean up later. He quoted figures of UNHS where increased growth population and poverty increase from poverty rate from 19.7% to 27% due to prolonged drought. The cause of the reversal was due to Uganda’ reluctance in prioritising environmental sustainability. This green growth strategy is therefore important to deal as it will enable Uganda to simultaneously achieve economic growth and environmental sustainability without leaving anybody behind. He noted that government through MoFPED is committed to mobilising resources within and outside the budget to ensure implementation of the strategy. The 11 Billion USD required to finance the strategy calls for a clear resource mobilisation strategy to attract and lobby for green finance. He urged the private sector to explore market opportunities associated with the transition to a green economy. Dr Okot pledged government’s effort towards creating an enabling environment for the private sector to operate. He stressed that the need for concerted effort by all players could not be ruled out. He concluded by thanking NPA for its leadership role in developing the strategy and for UNDP and GGGI technical and financial support. He rallied all development partners in implementing the strategy and thereafter welcomed the Deputy Prime Minister to give his speech.

* 1. . **Remarks by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Launch of the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy and its Implementation Plan.**

Hon. Moses Ali, the First DeputyPrime Minister in he’s concluding remarks acknowledged the importance of the strategy in achieving the sustainable development goals and the national goals at large and building prosperity for all. He urged stakeholders to implement the strategy’s roadmap and urged NPA to ensure all stakeholders sectors and LGs government to integrate green growth principles in their plans and budgets. He noted that leveraging green growth will require capacity building, supporting technology transfer, effective partnership of all stakeholders and funding from multiple sources. Hon. Moses Ali assured the audience of government’s commitment to mobilising resources for the implementation of the strategy. He appreciated NPA, climate change department and the other stakeholders for formulating the development of the strategy. He conveyed he’s deep appreciation to the UNDP and GGGI for their support in developing the strategy and its implementation roadmap. The prime minister concluded he’s remarks by emphasised the importance of partnerships in implementing the strategy.

The forum ended with the Official launch of the strategy. The Deputy Prime Minister in doing so said “I have the honour on behalf of the Prime Minister to launch the Uganda Green Growth Strategy, For God and My Country”.