

**UGANDA GOVERNMENT’S STATEMENT ON THE
TRANSFORMATION OF EDUCATION AT THE UN SUMMIT ON 19TH
SEPTEMBER 2022 IN NEW YORK**

Your Excellence the UN Secretary General
Your Excellences Heads of delegation and Ministers present
Representatives of UN organizations present
Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I convey warm greetings from the People of Uganda.

The Government of Uganda, conducted consultations with relevant stakeholders including the young people in transforming education in Uganda from 21st June to 3rd August, 2022 in preparation for the UN Transforming of Education Summit.

Uganda fully embraces the global agenda in all its components and with its underlying goals and objectives to transform education at all its levels and strands.

We are fully aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected all aspects of teaching and learning. It has widened the gaps in meeting the SDG 4 targets and magnified the long-standing gaps and profound inequalities in our society. On the other hand, it was also a catalyst for the education sector to come up with innovative solutions in a short period of time to ensure continuity of learning.

One of the lessons learnt from the COVID 19 pandemic is that we should not depend only on the traditional approaches to teaching and learning. As a way of recovery from the pandemic, we supported curriculum reviews and developed abridged curriculum sets for Primary and Secondary School subsectors. Teachers were retooled to implement the abridged curriculum, learning materials to support home learning were developed and online learning mechanisms at different educational levels were established to support learning.

Looking ahead, we commit to ensuring affirmative action in favor of marginalized groups such as adolescents, refugees, girls and young women, and indigenous groups who may be excluded from education services. We shall provide to the younger generation a good vision for the future through an education that is built on the fundamental values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, thus equipping them with competences and values to navigate through a complex environment, characterized by technological opportunities

and challenges, a rapidly changing world of work, economic and ecological crises.

We commit towards supporting a holistic approach to education at all levels and in all settings from early childhood care and education to adult learning and reaffirming our commitment to the universal right to lifelong learning.

We acknowledge that learners experiencing or observing violence in and around schools face significant challenges impacting their learning experience and outcomes. As such, we commit to strengthening prevention and response to any forms of violence at the school level, online, and in emergency settings by scaling up evidence-based prevention approaches such as emotional learning, gender transformative and trauma-informed approaches in curricula and teachers' training as accelerators to violence prevention, learning and lifelong physical and mental health. We also commit to strengthening child-friendly referral systems to effectively respond to violence.

We commit to providing sexual reproductive health education and psychosocial support programmes to address challenges that were presented by the COVID 19 crisis. We shall fast track the finalisation of the school health policy to address health related issues in the education sector.

In order to address issues related to teachers and the teaching profession, we commit to operationalize the National Teachers Policy and the teachers Council. We shall support transforming the teachers' profession and conditions of work, support ICT in teacher education, integrate life skills in teacher training curriculum and institutionalize continuous Professional Development Programs for teachers. The enhancement of teacher's salary has been ongoing since 2018 and we commit to continue with this process. We acknowledge current gaps in teacher's deployment across all levels of education. We commit to equitable recruitment and deployment of teachers across all levels of education

On the issue of curricular reforms, we are committed towards supporting building competencies aligned with pressing education needs of the population and the World of work. We commit to continue implementing the thematic curriculum, and retooling of teachers to manage foundation literacy and numeracy skills. We have integrated life skills in the Primary, lower secondary school and technical and vocational education curriculum. We shall continue to build the capacity of teachers to inculcate life skills in all learners, providing innovative learning approaches and strengthening the capacity of teachers to be creative.

We already have initiatives to promote digital learning implemented by the government. We commit to providing digital infrastructure connectivity, devices (learning gadgets) and provision of software that can support digital learning. We shall continue to equip schools with ICT infrastructure and re-tool teachers and other duty bearers on ICT skills to promote digital learning at all levels of education.

We shall target professional development and continuous mentoring support to teachers to design and deliver learning recovery programs, promotion of remedial learning methodologies including reduction of out of class activities, reduced tests and more learner centered approaches.

To enhance financing of Education, we commit to development of resource mobilization strategy and utilize the public private partnership to mobilize local resources to education from 11 percent in 2022 to 20 percent of our GDP by 2030.

We reiterate the position of our government towards the acceleration of initiatives developed for recovery from COVID- 19 crisis and learning losses and to strengthen the resilience of our education system when faced with any other crises, and to act by investing more in education.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY