

Membership criteria of the Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD)

1.0 Background

The Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (formerly the Uganda NGO Rio + 10 Coalition) has since 2001 been working as a loose network of more than 50 NGOs with a Secretariat formerly hosted by Joint Energy and Environment Projects (JEEP). By the end of 2003, there have been achievements as well as growing challenges.

The achievements to date include having a growing functional secretariat since 2004, being the Regional Lead agency for the East African Civil Society Watchdog Project for sustainable development in the Lake Victoria basin involving 3 East African Sustainability Watch networks (Kenya SusWatch network, Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development and UCSD), development of a three year Advocacy and Lobby plan that involved wide consultations within the thematic groups and the Steering Committee, being the National Focal Point for the Global Sustainability Watch and Co-hosting its Secretariat as a follow up the Rio + 10 project, production of 2 Annual National Sustainability Watch Reports in 2005 and 2006, Coordinating the Civil Society Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) PEAP revision process in 2003, being part of the National Organizing Committee for the Ramsar COP9 and the CSO Coordinating Committee for the same event that took place in 2005, and other networking and advocacy work related to sustainable development issues. UCSD also has a functional secretariat office with 4 fulltime staff (Programme Manager, a Programme Officer, Assistant Programme Officer, Accountant and the Fundraising and Organizational development Advisor (on volunteer basis).

The principle organs of the Coalition are the General Assembly, a nine - person Executive Committee and the Secretariat.

2.0 The Vision

The Vision of the Coalition is humanity sharing the resources of our planet in a sustainable manner guided by the principles of universal justice as set in Rio and subsequent summits

3.0 Mission

The Mission of the Coalition is to contribute to sustainable development through follow up of the Johannesburg summit outcomes and subsequent global declarations in Uganda.

4.0 Development Objective

The broad objective of the Coalition is to increase the public participation and civil society network's advocacy in order to influence and enhance implementation of national, regional and International levels of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

4.1 Specific objectives

- To initiate and support the processes of dialogue on sustainable development issues at national, regional and International levels.
- To undertake advocacy work in to promote sustainable development principles at national, regional and International levels.
- To provide and facilitate forums for the exchange and dissemination of information.
- To establish and maintain an information center that will facilitate Civil Society Organizations and Non Governmental Organizations capacities to influence and enhance sustainable development.
- To support the generation of information and research topics relevant to enhance sustainable development at national level and beyond.
- To support other initiatives that aim at promoting sustainable development at local levels and beyond, through Coalition members' efforts.

5.0 The Coalition's development approach

As an 'organization of organizations' the Coalition's development approach will be incremental and multipronged. An important part of the Coalition's strategy is that main work will continue to be carried out by the thematic groups or tied around specialized issues for example water, trade, energy, and agriculture. The Coalition will therefore in the sense that it will therefore work to:

- Build on the previous achievements and challenges, partnerships and other aspects of work since 2001 when the Coalition started as a loose network
- Encourage joint actions as far as possible, which are agreeable to the Coalition by consensus. The previous work through thematic groups will be strengthened and expanded to new ones or a wider mandate if need arises.

UCSD's thematic groups and contact	
▪ Biodiversity	Uganda Biodiversity Network (UBN)
▪ Climate change and Energy	Climate and Development Initiatives (CDI)
▪ Integrated freshwater management	National Assoc. of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)
▪ Sustainable agriculture	Uganda Environment Education Foundation (UEEF)
▪ Sust. Socio-economic devpt	Rural Development and Media Communications (RUDMEC)

- Work towards sustainable development through among other areas through:
 - Building Partnerships with likeminded civil society and other development actors to secure sustainable development in the implementation of the Poverty Eradication Action Plan and other nationwide policies and practices.
 - Focusing on the increasing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production in Uganda as part of civil society contribution to monitoring barriers towards sustainable development and pro-poor policies and practices in Uganda (attainment o MDGs 7,1,8 and the JPOI)

- Following up the commitments made on trade and environment in the Johannesburg Plan of Action (among others paragraph 91), i.e. to ensure the enhancement of mutual supportiveness of trade, environment and development with a view to achieving sustainable development; the Millennium Declaration (with emphasis on MDG1, 7 and 8) among others.

6.0 Membership (Art. 4 of UCSD Constitution)

6.1 Membership categories

Membership to the Coalition shall have the following categories:

- REGULAR members are organizations with voting rights. An organization being a legally registered body in Uganda.
- ASSOCIATE members being individuals or organizations within or outside Uganda.
- CORPORATE members being individual, organization, UN agency or other bodies that support the Coalition to implement its objectives.

6.2 Principles of the Coalition membership

The following principles shall apply to the membership of the Coalition:

- The Coalition shall be non-partisan and autonomous in the conduct of its affairs
- Member organizations of the Coalition shall retain their autonomy and independence in the conduct of the activities of the Coalition
- Members of the Coalition shall be bound by the joint decisions of the General Assembly.
- The membership of the Coalition shall promote national coverage; active participation of all the members and collective responsibility for the operations of the Coalition.
- The member organizations shall conform to the highest levels of professionalism and integrity in the implementation of the activities and advocacy campaigns of the Coalition
- The member organizations shall conform to the highest level of financial management with respect to the funds provided under the Coalition.
- The members shall uphold the principles of accountability and transparency in the execution of all Coalition affairs.
- Regular membership of the Coalition shall comprise legally recognized organizations, CBOs, NGOs, Faith based organizations (FBOs) that are interested in the sustainable development issues.
- On admission a member shall be required to pay a subscription fee determined by the Steering Committee.

6.3 Application procedures

- Admission to membership of the Coalition shall be made in writing using a format provided by the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee shall review and approve the applications. These will be presented to the General Assembly.

- Subject to the approval by the Steering committee, any organization may become a member in any one category on payment of the membership fees (Registration and Annual subscription fees).

6.4 *Rights of Members*

- a. The regular member organization that subscribes to this Constitution shall have the following rights:
 - Have the right to vote and be voted as members of the Steering Committee
 - Have the right to participate in the activities and meetings of the Coalition, where possible and appropriate integrating the practices and priorities of the Coalition into programmes and activities of the member organization.
 - Have the right to access information in the possession of the Coalition.
- b. The Associate and Corporate members have the right to participate in the activities and meetings of the Coalition and access information in the possession of the Coalition, but shall not have a right to vote.

6.5 *Responsibilities of members*

The responsibilities of the regular members through the General Assembly are:

- To abide with the provisions of this Constitution.
- To ensure the coordination and implementation of the Coalition activities at all levels
- To identify activities and potential areas of cooperation with the various stakeholders on sustainable development issues.
- To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the activities of the Steering Committee
- To disseminate information about the activities of their organizations amongst the members of the Coalition.
- To support solidarity activities of likeminded organizations to advance mutually beneficial issues.

6.6 *Termination and resignation of members*

- An organization shall lose its membership if its activities cease to conform to the objectives and principles of the Coalition.
- An organization may resign from membership using the procedure to be provided by the Steering Committee.

7.0 Benefits

UCSD offers the following benefits to its members. In turn members are expected to be of benefit to it

7.1 *Benefits to members*

- Eligible to attend Coalition meetings
- Regular members are eligible for election to the Coalition's Steering Committee.

- Opportunity to publicize organizational interests locally and internationally.
- Access to the information materials within the possession of the Coalition Secretariat for example the biannual *Rio + 10* Newsletter.
- Platform for lobby and advocacy work as part of a critical mass of other civil society organizations.
- Opportunities for capacity building through training and engagement in relevant national, regional and International dialogue processes related to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and other sustainable development issues.

7.2 *Coalition expectations from members*

- Sharing of information and experiences from their diverse areas of work and specialization
- Contributing to the global civil society concerted efforts to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, attainment of related Millennium Development Goals and realization of other global sustainable development commitments.
- Contributing to the resource technical / human resource pool of the Coalition in terms to secure legitimacy, credibility and visibility of civil society actions in Uganda working for sustainable development.

For further information please Contact:

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