



## Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development

IMPOSSIBLE

# THE PARIS AGREEMENT: A CALL TO ACTION TO SCALE UP STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF UGANDA'S CLIMATE ACTION (NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS)



### Background

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is one of the cornerstones of international climate policies as they include the targets and measures that each country has committed in the Paris Agreement to reduce Green House Gases (GHG) emissions. In Uganda, the expected emission reduction is 22% emission cuts on a Business as Usual (BAU) basis by 2030 due to a series of policies and measures in the energy, forestry and wetland sectors and complimented by additional measures in climate smart agriculture and transport compared with baseline. The NDC includes the targets and measures that Uganda commits to reduce the GHG emissions within the Paris Agreement.

Uganda's NDC implementation road map and development of the country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process that are underway, could ably benefit from CSO and wider stakeholder viewpoints. In addition Uganda's NAP on Adaptation will focus on the NDC (adaptation) priorities: Agriculture, forestry, water, infrastructure (human settlements), transport, energy, and health which are central to many people's lives. Additionally, there are cross-cutting issues: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), human rights observance and gender are key.

### From Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

Before the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris (2015), INDCs were the primary means for governments to communicate internationally the steps they will take to address climate change in their own countries. Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) reflect each country's

ambition for reducing emissions, taking into account its domestic circumstances and capabilities. Some countries also address how they will adapt to climate change impacts, and what support they need from, or will provide to, other countries to adopt to low-carbon pathways and to build climate resilience.

As countries formally join the Paris Agreement and look forward to implementation of these climate actions – the “intended” is dropped and an INDC is converted into a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). This conversion happens when a country submits its respective instrument of ratification, accession, or approval to join the Paris Agreement. Uganda submitted its INDC in Oct. 2015. This INDC has since become the NDC.

### Uganda has varied NDC Stakeholders

In addition to Article 41 of the Uganda Constitution, Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) emphasize the importance of public awareness, access to information, public participation and international cooperation in order to realize the Convention's overall objective.

At national level, there are numerous policy provisions to mobilize stakeholder groups to participate in climate change related actions in the country. A wide range of these stakeholders on climate change that have to be regularly engaged include: Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), national/regional and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Academia and research Institutions, Private sectors, media and development partners / donors. There are also International stakeholders since climate change impacts have no boundaries.

### Uganda's NDC: What is at Stake?

- Currently, stakeholder awareness and appreciation of Uganda's NDC is low. In addition, there are limited engagement mechanisms with the above stakeholders, as the Environmental Committees at sub county, parish and District levels that are mandated to take up the NDC (a relatively new concept) in addition to implementing

development and wider environmental conservation activities, are currently inactive. This is worsened by the high expectations by the communities across the country, from the Climate Change Department, NEMA and Civil Society Organizations to address the growing climate change impacts.

- The transition of the Uganda INDC ( hastily prepared ahead of COP21) to NDC has missed out on stakeholder views and ideas to better offset the worst impacts of climate change, to increase its transparency and level of ambition.
- Financing of the Uganda NDC is pegged on an expected 70% support from external sources, and 30% internal support. However, this depends on having in place a conducive environment for this plan to be fully owned and implemented by the various stakeholders.

### What Can be Done?

- The Climate Change Department should urgently draw up a plan to scale up stakeholder awareness on Uganda's NDC, the National Climate Change Policy and related policies / strategies, amongst stakeholders at local and national levels as a starting point to bring them on board.
- The Climate Change Department should create a Liaison office to fully facilitate stakeholder engagement in implementation of the various NDC aspects, as well as their increased involvement in all national climate policy and legislative processes.
- NEMA and the Climate Change Department should revitalize the Environment Committees (Village and Parish and Sub-county, and District levels) in order to

secure that climate action, which they are expected to be in charge of (as part of the wider environment and natural resources management) is given more attention in terms of clear budget and technical support.

- CSOs and the Climate Change Department should regularly provide skills and information / knowledge updates, and exchange learning visits to local leaders (district and lower Government) and their technical staff, given that climate change policy / negotiations are dynamic, while solutions could be found from communities with similar experiences and lessons.
- Donors need to support the Climate Change Department to work with CSOs to draw up their specific capacity strengthening programme as key partners in implementation of the NDC involving: fundraising skills, technology transfer and replication and synergy building across sectors, among others. This will also strengthen monitoring of the NDC, as CSOs regularly seek accountability from duty bearers regarding climate action and other development interventions at national and local levels, in addition to implementation of practical projects.
- The Ministry of Water and Environment and the Climate Change Department should initiate the processes to scale up collaboration amongst climate change-mandated institutions across key sectors at the national and the local (district and sub county) levels.

**Contact: Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) Programme Manager**  
**Tel: 0414 269461 | Email: [ugandacoalition@infocom.co.ug](mailto:ugandacoalition@infocom.co.ug) | [www.ugandacoalition.or.ug](http://www.ugandacoalition.or.ug)**

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Through the PIPA, the above Partners are working to contribute to strengthening the pro-poor focus and climate change ambitions in the implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa. This is being done through assessing implementation (readiness) of the NDCs, as this is the principal cornerstone of the Paris Agreement. More about the Project: [http://www.inforse.org/africa/East\\_Africa\\_PIPA.htm](http://www.inforse.org/africa/East_Africa_PIPA.htm)

***Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the project funder.***

