

Mr. Chairman

I bring you greetings from the people of Uganda.

Uganda experiences a lot of migratory forms. Internally, there are phenomena of rural-urban migration and internally displaced persons. Internationally, there is considerable inflow of refugees from the great lakes region due to various reasons. Additionally, there are significant flows of persons from further afield in search of business and employment opportunities; while at the same time there is some outflow of Ugandans to other countries.

Rural-urban migration

Data from the last two censuses and various studies show that Uganda still has a largely rural population of about 85 per cent, although there is a visible sign of rural-urban migration, especially by the youth. The population is growing at a much higher rate of 5.1 per cent than the average rate of 3.2 per cent. There has been a sharp increase in the urban population from 1.6 million to 3.6 million which is about 11 to 12 per cent respectively.

between 1991 and 2002 has not been matched with corresponding growth in development in basic urban physical and social infrastructure.

This rural-urban migration has also affected agricultural productivity as the elderly and less energetic people are left in the rural areas where cultivation should be taking place, yet they do not have enough energy to till the land.

Rural-rural migration

There has also been considerable rural-rural migration especially from the highly populated districts of south-western Uganda where there is shortage of land for cultivation to the sparsely populated districts of mid-western Uganda. This has resulted in the massive clearing of tropical forests in the receiving districts for cultivation of crops; hence a loss of fuelwood and forest products.

that the biggest proportion of Ugandans do not have national identification cards with neighboring countries is “porous”. Uganda is still in the process of making and issuing national identification cards thus making identification zones difficult for refugees and other immigrants to cross, which is quite a challenge. The influx of refugees increases the burden on the economy, especially on social service provision.

The Refugee Act (2006) accords refugees the rights stipulated in the UN and African Union Conventions, including the right of movement and the right to work.

has been established that remittances from Ugandans in the Diaspora amount to about US\$ 700 million per year, accounting for 4% of GDP.

Uganda has taken initiatives, in line with the objectives, to regulate migration and development through different policies. All the policies and laws are implemented within the framework of the Constitution of Uganda and the National Development Plans. These include:

- i. The Amnesty Act 2000 that is intended to encourage Ugandans who left the country involuntarily to return.
- ii. The National Refugee Policy (Draft)
- iii. The Prevention of Trafficking Persons Act 2010.
- iv. The Immigration Control and Citizenship Act 2004.

In addition to the above, the Diaspora Policy is being developed by the Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This Policy is also to, among others, address labour externalization initiatives.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I ~~to~~ ~~re-~~affirm government of Uganda
commitment to all the ~~international~~ conventions and protocols on migration. Thank
you.