



UGANDA

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STATEMENT BY

**HON. NAKADAMA PIKIIRANGA, MINISTER OF STATE
FOR GENDER AND CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA**

**AT THE 56TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)**

Please check against delivery

New York, February 29, 2012

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Parliament of Uganda
P.O. Box 6000 Kampala

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HON. WAKADABA RUKIA ISANGI, MINISTER OF STATE
FOR GENDER AND CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA

AT THE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON
STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)

New York, February 12, 2012

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Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address this Distinguished Assembly of the 50th Session of the States of Women. I congratulate you Madam Chairperson and Members of the Bureau on this important meeting. At the onset, I reiterate the state that my Government has made by Parisia on behalf of the African States Group.

My delegation welcomes the theme for this year's session as it is in the line with development of my country which focuses on rural transformation and ensuring prosperity for all. Within this framework, the pursuance of gender equality and the empowerment of women is paramount. In Uganda, 80% of the population of 37 million is rural based and women constitute the largest proportion of the agricultural labour force. Their contribution to the economy is significant. Despite the effects of the global economic crisis and the effects of climate change that have resulted in high rates of food and essential commodities shortages in Uganda, rural women remain resilient. They continue to provide food and care for their households and communities.

Our Government policy and legal framework support the empowerment of women in all spheres. Government is committed to translating policy commitments into action for example:

- Law which protect the rights of rural women have been enacted. These include the Land Act which guarantees the right to own land, the Labour Act which is a regulation that prohibits any transaction on claim of rape. The employment act extended maternity leave to 60 working days, introduced paternity leave, and prohibits sexual harassment; the penal code was amended to prohibit defilement of girls and adolescents.
- Intensified action to address Gender-Based Violence including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has resulted in the passing of specific laws including the Domestic Violence Act and the Prevention of Rape and Sexual Offences Act. These laws have provided a legal basis for the formation of community-based action groups. Government plans to establish safe shelters for survivors of GBV.
- The gender gap in primary school enrolment has been reduced to 5.1% with 50.1% for boys. This has been achieved through the implementation of gender parity in Primary Education by 2015.
- In the general elections of 2011, the number of women in political and leadership positions increased. At parliament women representation has risen from 24.9% in 2001 to the present 35%. Local Council structures have provided space and given voice to the rural women to participate in governance.
- In the last 2 years, Government has introduced various empowerment measures for vulnerable groups including older women to facilitate their access to basic services health and financial security.
- Other interventions include revising of the budget and grants for rural extension, adult literacy, and business skills development.

... unless we are still plagued with challenges of unemployment, teenage pregnancies, can't find jobs and persistent poverty which exhibits a female face.

Our Government will continue to work in close collaboration with Civil Society, Faith-based Organizations and other stakeholders to ensure that the quality of development and employment of rights becomes a reality for all women, men, girls and boys.

"Thank you, President!"