THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH GENDER AND EQUITY BUDGETING

A Concept Note for the Side Event by Government of Uganda

At the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Thursday 15 March 2018

3:00pm–4:15pm

Conference Room A, Conference Building

United Nations Headquarters, New York
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Context

Uganda has a population of 34 million people (UBOS 2014) out of whom 51% are females (17,573,818). The rural population totals to 27,208,786 people with females constituting 13,805,892. Uganda rural population is made up of 5,494,246 households of which 1,255,190 are headed by women. The total population under 100% care by women is 5,275,577 (19%).

In a concerted effort to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls, the Government of Uganda strengthened its commitment by introducing the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2015 with provisions on compliance with gender and equity requirements. This commitment among others is geared towards making rural women and girls integral to sustainable wealth creation, employment and inclusive growth as prioritized in Uganda’s National Development Plan II (2015/2016-2019/2020).

Linking the budget appropriation to compliance with gender and equity of all government bodies has played an instrumental role in gradual change in Rural Women’s Lives. The 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) under the Priority theme, “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls” provides an opportunity for the Government of Uganda to share with other UN Member States the experience of gender and equity budgeting in Uganda with specific focus on the sectors of Agriculture, Water and Sanitation and Lands. The proposed theme of the Side Event is, “Transforming the Lives of Rural Women and Girls through Gender and Equity Budgeting”.

1.2 Gender and Equity Budgeting in Uganda

Uganda Gender Policy of 1997 revised in 2007 identifies gender as a cross cutting concern and mandates all actors (state and non-state actors) to take appropriate actions to address gender inequalities within their mandate. Within this framework, gender mainstreaming is the main strategy to ensure that all MDAs institutionalise gender in policy formulation, planning and budgeting.

Accordingly, in Financial Year 2004/2005, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED), in collaboration with Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) adopted Gender and Equity Budgeting in preparation of sector Budget Framework Papers (BFPs).¹

¹ Uganda Gender Policy, 2007 defines gender and equity budgeting as a type of resource allocation that includes analysis of public revenues and public expenditures from a gender and equity perspective. This means that the budgetary implications for, and impacts on, women and girls, compared to men and boys, are considered.
Through a directive in the Budget Call Circular (BCC), all the MDAs and LGs were instructed to show how they would address gender issues through their budgets. This approach was ex-ante and the initiative focused on gender, regional inequalities and exclusion of poor and vulnerable groups including children, youth, persons with disabilities and the older persons.

While significant achievements were registered in Gender and Equity Budgeting, there has been limited progress made in ensuring compliance with issues of Gender and Equity in plans and budgets. Consequently, in 2015, the Public Finance Management Act 2015, was enacted with provisions on Gender and Equity. The law mandates the Minister responsible for Finance to issue a Certificate of Compliance, certifying that the budget framework papers are Gender and Equity responsive; and specifying measures taken to equalize opportunities for women, men, Persons with Disabilities and other marginalised groups in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Commission. Inclusion of provisions on gender and equity in the law has compelled public institutions to plan and budget for initiatives that have an impact on rural women and girls.

2.0 Overview of the Side Event

The side event will demonstrate the impact the gender and equity budget has had on the lives of women and girls focusing on the sectors of Agriculture, Water, Sanitation and Lands. These sectors are particularly important to the realization of the various global targets set under the six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) namely:

(i) **Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere: Poverty levels in Uganda stand at 27% and overall, 27% of the chronically poor households in rural areas are headed by women (UBOS, 2017).

(ii) **Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

(iii) **Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

(iv) **Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

(v) **Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

(vi) **Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The 2030 global agenda is centered on inclusiveness and rural women are among the targets for the various interventions. The government of Uganda identified gender and equity budgeting as one of the ways to transform lives of rural women and girls.

During the side event, Uganda will show case how lives of women and girls have been changing without necessarily attracting additional funding but rather within the very financial resources allocated to the Local Governments and Ministries, Departments and Agencies that constitute the 16 sectors in Uganda.

There are perceptions that gender and equity budgeting require a separate budget. However, Uganda’s experience shows that this initiative does not necessarily mean a separate budget for women, marginalised and vulnerable groups; but an inclusive budget that addresses the different needs of among others women, men, youth,
children, persons with disabilities, the poor, the rich, ethnic minorities, older persons, rural residents and residents of hard to reach places like islands; hence its importance in inclusive economic growth.

3.0 Objectives and Expected Outputs of the Side Event

3.1 Objectives

The main objective of the side event is for Government of Uganda to share the gender and equity budgeting initiative, particularly how it has contributed to the positive transformation of the lives of the rural women and girls. The specific objectives are:

(i) To share Progress and Experience in transforming the lives of rural women and girls through gender and equity budgeting in the sectors of:
   (a) Agriculture
   (b) Water and Sanitation and
   (c) Lands

(ii) To share the experiences and success stories of rural women and girls.

(iii) To share assessment tools and materials used in implementing gender and equity budgeting.

3.2 Expected Output

A set of recommendations on transforming the lives of rural women and girls through Gender and Equity Budgeting in the sectors of Agriculture, Water and Sanitation and the Lands.

4.0 Methodology

The side event will be arranged as a panel discussion followed by plenary discussions. Presentations will be through the following:

(i) Power Point Presentations
(ii) Viewing a documentary on experiences of rural women and girls and
(iii) Display of Information, education and communication materials

5.0 Proposed Programme

(i) Introductions by the Moderator
(ii) Opening Remarks by Hon. Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development and UN Women Uganda
(iii) Viewing of the Documentary of the rural women and girls’ experiences
(iv) Panel Discussion on Transforming Rural Women’s and Girl’s Lives through Gender and Equity Budgeting in the three sectors namely; Agriculture; Water and Sanitation; Lands Housing and Urban Development
(v) Plenary Discussions
(vi) Closing Remarks