



STATEMENT

BY

**HON. JUSTINE LUMUMBA KASULE
MINISTER FOR GENERAL DUTIES AND FOCAL
POINT MINISTER FOR SDGS
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

**AT THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON “WATER
FOR HEALTH: ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION
AND HYGIENE FOR ALL, INCLUDING THE HUMAN
RIGHTS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND
SANITATION”**

22 MARCH 2023

Co-chairs of the Interactive Dialogue on Water for Health, the United Kingdom, and Dominican Republic,

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uganda, I wish to convey my appreciation to the co-chairs of the Interactive Dialogue on Water for Health for the good arrangements.

Co-chairs,

This interactive dialogue is of great interest to us as a country. The Sustainable Development Goals reinforce the need to ensure safe management of water and sanitation, reduction in maternal mortality, ending preventable newborn deaths, and providing quality universal health coverage.

Uganda has registered progress on access to safe water which stands at 72% in urban areas and 67% in rural areas, compared to the average for the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa which is at 57%. While access to sanitation in rural areas is at 77% and 90.6 % for urban areas in comparison to Africa's average of 63%. However, safely managed sanitation services are still very low and stands at 8.2% (rural areas) and 40.7% (urban areas).

We are however facing the challenge of emerging environmental contaminants such as plastics, trace organic and inorganic contaminants, which are increasingly being detected in the water with potential implication on the health of the population. In addition, financing for water for health remains a challenge to Uganda. We require USD1.7 billion annually to implement water and environment related programs to help improve people's social and economic welfare, livelihoods, and incomes. However, only USD 0.4 Billion has been mobilized from various sources constituting only 25% of the required funds.

Co-Chairs,

Building human and institutional capacity, investing in knowledge generation, integration of management information systems, and mobilizing innovative financing will enable Uganda to ensure access to safely managed water and sanitation services and achieve SDG6 and related targets. Uganda will continue to work with all its partners to accelerate the provision of water and sanitation services to the people of Uganda, including refugees.

Co-chairs,

I conclude by reiterating Uganda's commitment to the Water Action Agenda and to resolve to do the following as part of our voluntary commitment:

a) Accelerate inclusive access to safely managed water and sanitation services in both rural and urban areas including public institutions (schools and health facilities), through investing in infrastructure, knowledge generation, integration of management information systems, and evidence sharing and learning in order to reach out to the underserved population.

I thank you.