



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

**SPEECH BY HON. MUTUZO PEACE REGIS, MINISTER
OF STATE FOR GENDER AND CULTURE AFFAIRS**

AT

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF

**THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF
GENDER ON IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF
THE WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY (WPS)
COMMITMENTS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

NOVEMBER 23RD, 2018

PROTEA HOTEL ENTEBBE

Your Excellencies the Ministers of Gender
The UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region
The Executive Secretary; ICGLR
The Representative of the African Union
The Representative UN Women
Representatives of Development Partners
Civil Society Partners
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased and honored to welcome you all to Uganda and to this historic meeting which has been convened to deliberate on the implementation and monitoring of the actions we have committed to with regard to promoting the role of women in peace, security and development in the Great Lakes Region.

This meeting is convened as a follow-up of the 9th High Level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism held in Kampala on 8th October 2018 at which the Heads of State and Government requested the Ministers responsible for Gender to meet and outline the mechanisms to actualize women's representation and effective and meaningful participation in the process of ensuring peace and development in this Region.

The task given to us comes from the realization and experience from our respective Countries of the central role and position of women at the family level, in the community and at national levels. Women through their multiple roles of production, reproduction, care giving

and management make significant contribution to sustaining livelihoods.

Our Governments have therefore committed to promoting gender equality and empowering all women and girls which is Sustainable Development Goal Number 5 and a goal firmly enshrined in the regional instruments as well as our respective national legal and policy frameworks.

In all these instruments the message is clear; that peace and security are the foundations for development and social economic transformation.

Supporting women-led initiatives at grassroots level and increasing their opportunities for education, health, economic empowerment and participation in public life are some of the strategies that have contributed to sustainable development.

Equally important is the recognition that engaging men and boys in advancing gender equality is a strategic approach that translates into the desired outcomes for women and girls.

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates,

Regarding implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Uganda developed the first Action Plan for its implementation in 2008 and Government has since worked in partnership with Civil Society and Development Partners to operationalize it.

Further, in line with fulfillment of commitments of the Kampala Declaration on SGBV 2011, our Government through the Judiciary has started the process of the special court sessions to handle cases of SGBV.

Uganda also hosts the ICGLR-Regional Training Facility and we continue to pledge Uganda's support for the Facility and appreciate the achievements that have been registered in the short term of ICGLR-RTF's existence under the leadership of the Regional Director.

I would like to commend the Experts who have worked for the last two days to elaborate technical issues on Women Peace and Security including the related aspects of addressing GBV, women's economic empowerment as well as establishing linkages with the Civil Society, Private Sector and all stakeholders.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of the Government of Uganda to the aspirations of this meeting and I look forward to constructive dialogue that will enhance the support of women as catalysts for peace harmony, development and prosperity in the Great Lakes Region.

I am certain therefore that as Ministers of Gender, we shall deliver on the expected outcomes of this meeting which include the Regional Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and recommendations for concrete action to achieve the minimum quota of 30 percent women representation in peace and political processes by 2023.

I once again welcome all of you in particular our visitors to Uganda and wish you a pleasant and joyful stay with us.

I thank you.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY