



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENT ON THE ALLEGDLY BLOATED
DELEGATION OF 71 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO THE 78TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2023**

By

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Okello Henry Oryem".

1. Introduction

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is the main deliberative platform of the United Nations, comprised of the 193 Members States. It also plays a governance role in the management of the United Nations Secretariat as well as its specialized agencies, Funds, Commissions and Experts Committees.

Typically, the Assembly meets annually in two sessions: the main part starting from the first week of September to the last week of December; while the resumed part lasts from mid-January to the end of August.

The high-level week of the General Assembly marks the formal opening of each session, during which Heads of State and Government participate in the General Debate and deliver country statements expressing their countries' views on key matters of interest on the agenda of the Assembly. The high-level week normally lasts approximately seven working days.

2. Justification for country representation at the UNGA

Multilateral negotiations are very complex, including multiple actors who deal with multiple issues and seek multiple, often incompatible, interests. In the UNGA, the membership has grown from the original 51 to today's 193 states, and the UNGA session agendas have lengthened from 120 (sub-) items in 1946 to 335 in 2023.

The complexity is further intensified by practical obstacles such as multiple meetings going on simultaneously, informally in the corridors, or until the night in the last-minute attempts to reach consensus. Such an environment places pressure on the delegation size. Small delegations lack staff that could be physically present in all meetings and last-minute negotiation marathons.

Given the wide and ever-growing scope of the Agenda, the General Assembly conducts its main work simultaneously through six functional committees as follows:

- First Committee (Disarmament & International Security)
- Second Committee (Economic & Financial)
- Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural)
- Fourth Committee (Special Political & Decolonization)
- Fifth Committee (Administrative & Budgetary)
- Sixth Committee (Legal)

Each of the UNGA committees has a distinctive culture and procedural practice, which requires specialists who understand the specific body. As a result, only sufficiently large delegations can represent their national interests effectively in all the Committees, while the small delegations are systematically disadvantaged.

3. Mandate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in relation to Government delegations abroad

(a) Foreign Policy implementation and Representation of Uganda abroad

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is charged with the mandate of promoting and protecting Uganda's national interests abroad, in accordance with the country's foreign policy as stipulated under objective XXVIII of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy.

As stated earlier, the nature of diplomacy and foreign policy today continues to evolve with new and complex issues of international significance with added responsibilities and challenges. The successes that we have registered over the years have been the result of shared efforts between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant national stakeholders including Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDA's) and Civil Society Organizations. The attraction and retention of the UN Regional Service Center in Entebbe is a classic

example of these successes which brings into our economy more than US\$ 43 million annually.

In order to be engaged in the multilateral space, most countries maintain a permanent presence in New York accredited to the United Nations. While some have large delegations ranging from 40 to 150 diplomats, many do not have the resources to do so, and maintain smaller Missions. Uganda is one of those which maintains a small number of staff of only 10 (ten) diplomats in New York.

(b) Accreditation of delegations to United Nations Meetings

The accreditation list to the UN General Assembly contains the full composition of each country's delegation. According to the Rules of Procedure for the UNGA, an accreditation list of all participating delegations is required to be submitted for endorsement by the General Committees. Under Rule 27, the credentials of representatives and names of members of a delegation shall be issued either by a Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The only mandate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this regard is to prepare and submit the country's accreditation list based on submissions received from Government MDAs and stakeholders.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has the mandate to authorize Ministers and governments delegations travelling abroad on official duty.

4. Composition of Uganda's delegation to UNGA 2023

His Excellency the President delegated Her Excellency the Vice President to represent him at the high-level week of the 78th session of the UNGA, making her the Head of Delegation. The accompanying delegation included representation from MDAs with the mandate on issues that were on the agenda. These included: Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Planning Authority as well as Civil Society Organizations.

Being the midterm point towards achieving the Agenda 2030, there was a sharper focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during this year's General Assembly session. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister participated in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

It is worth noting that:

- (a) The high-level week of the General Assembly typically also has a very high number of associated side events and bilateral meetings. In this case, the Uganda delegation participated in the various side meetings and events. Attached as **Annex A** is a list of the high-level meetings H.E the Vice President and the delegation participated in;
- (b) Not all members on the delegation were funded by Government. Instead a significant number were funded either in part or wholly by relevant UN agencies or development partners, as indicated in **Annex B**. For those whose source of funding is unknown to my Ministry, we have brought the request by Parliament to those institutions' Accounting Officers for them to apprise Parliament;
- (c) Some members on the delegation list did not travel as highlighted in **Annex B**;
- (d) The 10 (ten) officials of Uganda's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York are based in New York. Government did not incur any additional costs (on travel and per diems) for them to participate in the meetings;
- (e) Given the fact that Uganda is scheduled to host the summits of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Group of 77 + China in January 2024, the delegation participated in a number of bilateral meetings on the margins of the Assembly. The membership of the G77 + China reaffirmed the decision to host the Third South

Summit in Kampala in January 2024 and adopted the Ministerial Declaration;

- (f) The list submitted to the UN for accreditation, contains names of accompanying persons, whom, high level Government officials (the VP, PM and Ministers), are entitled to travel with. Spouses of Cabinet Officials can accompany them on official overseas trips with the approval of H.E the President. For avoidance of doubt, the spouses that travelled obtained the necessary clearance;
- (g) Given the multiple complex issues on the agenda, as well as the multiple meetings that were held simultaneously, relative to the size of Uganda's delegation – where some MDAs were not represented, many issues of great importance to the country were not attended to.
- (h) Finally, an analysis of the information detailed in **Annex B** discloses the following facts;
 - a) **31** delegates were funded by the respective MDA's;
 - b) **17** delegates were funded by the UN and Partners;
 - c) **21** delegates did not travel to New York for the UN General Assembly 2023 as portrayed. Indeed, 10 of these are diplomatic staff at our Permanent Mission in New York;

5. Conclusion

The UN General Assembly provides a unique platform for multilateral discussion on the full spectrum of international issues. Uganda's delegation actively participated in the General Assembly debate and several bilateral meetings were held on the margins. The delegation;

- i) Highlighted Uganda's progress in implementing the SDG's and affirmed government's commitment to poverty reduction, gender equality, inclusive development, promoting regional peace and security;
- ii) Brought Uganda's perspectives to debates relating to health, refugees, climate change, UN reforms among others;

- iii) Strengthened engagement with developing countries especially members of the global south to support Uganda's upcoming chairmanship of NAM and G77/China;

Finally, Uganda's delegation for all purposes and intent, was modest compared to other delegations. Additionally, only 31 were funded by MDAs and **NOT** 71 as has been portrayed. As mentioned earlier, the size of the delegation was informed by the agenda of the session and the need to be effectively represented and influence the final policy outcomes.

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ANNEX B: Country Delegation List to United Nations General Assembly 2023 as per the accreditation lists

SN	Name	Designation	Source of Funding	Status of travel
Delegation of the H.E. the Vice President				
1.	H.E. Major (Rtd) Jessica Alupo R. E.	Vice President	State House	Travelled
2.	Mr. Abaine Peter	Spouse to H.E. the VP	State House	Travelled
3.	Mr. Musubire K. Vincent	Deputy Principal Private Secretary	State House	Travelled
4.	Francis Ojamo	Aide De Camp to the Vice President	State House	Travelled
5.	Masereka Elijah	Trip Admin	State House	Travelled
6.	Opoo James	Security	State House	Travelled
7.	Isenyi Gorrettie Justine	House Hold	State House	Travelled
8.	Okabo Ambrose	Security	State House	Travelled
Delegation of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister				
1.	Rt. Hon. Nabbanja Robinah	Prime Minister	OPM	Travelled
2.	ACP Amanya Isaac	Aide De Camp	OPM	Travelled
3.	Mr. Kasoocha Ismael	Communications Assistant	OPM	Travelled
4.	Ms. Agnes Birungi	Protocol Officer	OPM	Travelled
5.	Mr. Byamukama Hassan	Body Guard	OPM	Travelled
List of officials from the Office of Prime Minister Supported by UN Agency				
1.	Rt. Hon. Kasule Lumumba	Minister for General Duties	OPM	Travelled
2.	Dr. Albert Byamugisha	Head of SDG Secretariat	OPM/ SDG Secretariat	Travelled
3.	Mr. Pascal Byarugaba	M&E Specialist SDG	OPM/SDG Secretariat	Travelled
Ministry of Foreign Affairs				
1.	Hon. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar	Minister of Foreign Affairs	MoFA	Travelled

2.	Hon. Oryem Henry Okello	Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs)	United Nations	Travelled
3.	Mrs. Okello Joyce	Spouse to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs)	MoFA	Travelled
4.	Amb. Phillip Odida	Director/ Regional and International Political Affairs	United Nations	Travelled
5.	Amb. Elly Kamahungye	Director/ Regional and International Economic Affairs	United Nations	Travelled
6.	Amb. Eunice Kigenyi	Head International Legal and Social Affairs	Not Applicable	Did Not Travel
7.	Mr. Stephen Ssenabulya	Ag. Head International Political Cooperation	United Nations	Travelled
8.	Mr. Nelson Kasigaire	Counselor/Personal Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs	MoFA	Travelled
9.	Mr. Brian Mwanika	Ag. Head International Economic Cooperation	United Nations	Travelled

List of officials based at Permanent Mission of Uganda in New York

1.	Amb. Adonia Ayebare	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN	Not Applicable	Resident in New York
2.	Amb. Godfrey Kwoba	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN	"	"
3.	Mrs. K. Celia Nabeta	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN	"	"
4.	Maj. Gen. Silver Kayemba	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN	"	"
5.	Mr. Haruna Bazirondere Isabirye	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN	"	"
6.	Mr. Joshua Kalebo	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN	"	"

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7.	Mr. Jesse Musinguzi	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN	"	"
8.	Mr. Medard Ainomuhisha	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN	"	"
9.	Mr. Marvin Ikondere	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN	"	"
10.	Ms. Amina Gurhan	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN	"	"
List of officials from Uganda High Commission, London				
1.	Ambassador Nimisha Madhvani	High Commissioner	Mission	Travelled
2.	Ambassador John L. Mugerwa	Deputy High Commissioner	Not Applicable	Did Not Travel
Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)				
1.	Hon. Sam Cheptoris	Minister of Water and Environment	MWE	Travelled
2.	Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi	Permanent Secretary	MWE	Travelled
3.	Mr. Mugabi Stephen David	Ag. Director Environment Affairs	Not Applicable	Did Not Travel
4.	Mr. Dennis Ocare	Ag. Commissioner Planning and Policy	MWE	Travelled
5.	Eng. Kato Paul Matovu	Principal Engineer	MWE	Travelled
6.	Mr. Bbosa Henry	Principal Officer International Relations	MWE	Travelled
7.	Eng. Catherine Kemigisha	Principal Engineer	MWE	Travelled
Ministry of Health				
1.	Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng	Minister of Health	Ministry of Health	Travelled
2.	Dr. Henry Mwebesa	Director General Health Services	Ministry of Health	Travelled
3.	Dr. Richard Kabanda	Commissioner, Health and Education	United Nations	Travelled
4.	Dr. Sarah Byakika	Commissioner Planning, Finance and Policy	Ministry of Health	Travelled

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5.	Mr. Turyahabwe Stavia	Assistant Commissioner – National TB and Leprosy Program	Ministry of Health	Travelled
6.	Mr. Tephy Mujurizi	Senior Technical Advisor – Laboratory Services	Not Applicable	Did Not Travel
7.	Ms. Abirahmi Kananathan	Technical Assistant	United Nations	Travelled
8.	Dr. Nabaasa Herbert	Commissioner – Environmental Health	Ministry of Health	Travelled
Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development				
1.	Hon. Obia Kania	Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development	World Bank Project (USMID)	Travelled
2.	Mr. Vincent B. Byendaimira	Director/Physical Planning	World Bank Project (USMID)	Travelled
3.	Ms. Kyofa Najjum	Personal Assistant to the Minister	World Bank Project (USMID)	Travelled
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development				
1.	Hon. Amos Lugoloobi	Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Planning)	MFPED	Travelled
2.	Mr. Kakama Godwin Nelson Kagoma	Commissioner Cash Policy Department	UNICEF	Travelled
3.	Mr. Mustapha Achidri	Assistant Commissioner, Development Assistance and Regional Cooperation Department	Not Applicable	Did Not Travel
4.	Mr. Epiphany Berocan	Principal Economist, Economic Development Policy and Research Department	MFPED	Travelled

National Planning Authority				
1.	Prof. Pamela K. Mbabazi	Chairperson	UN agency	Travelled
2.	Dr. Asuman Guloba	Director Development Planning	UN agency	Travelled
3.	Dr. Winnie Nabiddo	Manager Monitoring and Evaluation	UN agency	Travelled
4.	Mr. Vincent Operemo	Manager Strategic Planning	Not Applicable	Did Not Travel
Uganda Bureau of Statistics				
1.	Mr. Chris Mukisa	Executive Director	UBOS	Travelled
Ministry of Local Government				
1.	Hon. Businge Victoria Rusoke	Minister of State for Local Government (MoLG)	Not Applicable	Did Not Travel
2.	Eng. Paul Kasule-Mukasa	Project Coordinator of the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda	Ministry of Local Government	Travelled
Office of the President				
1.	Hon. Dr. Musenero Monica Masanza	Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation	Not Applicable	Did Not Travel
2.	Ms. Lucy Nakyobe Mbonye	Head of Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet	Not Applicable	Did Not Travel
3.	Ms. Mutesa Betty	Under Secretary	Not Applicable	Did Not Travel

ANNEX A: SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL WEEK OF THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 18 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Date/Time	Meeting	Responsible MDA
19-25 September 2023	General Debate, UN General Assembly	Vice President
19-20 September 2023	SDGs Summit of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	Prime Minister
19 September 2023	High-Level Meeting on Global Development Initiative Cooperation Outcomes <i>GDI for SDGs: Actions and Progress</i>	Prime Minister/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs/UNDP
20 September 2023	Alternative and Innovative Development Financing	Prime Minister
20 September 2023	High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response	Ministry of Health
20 September 2023	Climate Ambition Summit	Ministry of Water & Environment
20 September 2023	General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development	Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development
20 September 2023	35 th Senior Officials Meeting of the G77 and China	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
21 September 2023	High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Universal Health Coverage	Ministry of Health
22 September 2023	High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Tuberculosis (TB)	Ministry of Health
21 September 2023	Preparatory Ministerial meeting for the Summit of the Future	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
21 September 2023	Meeting of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC)	Ministry of Water & Environment
21 September 2023	13 th Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Group of Friends of Mediation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
21 September 2023	22 nd Annual Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of LLDCs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Date/Time	Meeting	Responsible MDA
21 September 2023	OIC Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
21 September 2023	Annual Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
21 September 2023	Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of Least Developed Conference	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
21 September 2023	Commonwealth Environment and Climate Ministers Meeting	Ministry of Water & Environment
21 September 2023	Ministerial Briefing on the African Regional Counter Terrorism Summit to be held in the first quarter of 2024 in Abuja, Nigeria	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN
21 September 2023	Fourth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage & Global Health, in partnership with UHC2030	Ministry of Health
22 September 2023	Ministerial consultations on funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage convened by Egypt COP27 President and UAE COP28 President-designate	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN
22 September 2023	47 th Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the G77 & China	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
22 September 2023	NAM-Group of 77 and China Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Ministerial Meeting	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
23 September 2023	African Union Peace and Security Council Ministerial Meeting on "Financing of AU Peace support Operations	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
26 September 2023	High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote	Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN

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Date/Time	Meeting	Responsible MDA
	the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	

Note:

- On the margins of the General Assembly, the leader of delegation held bilateral meetings with leaders from Chile, Central Africa Republic, Cuba, Algeria, Burundi, Trinidad and Tobago, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Oman, the President of the UN General Assembly, Executive Secretary of IGAD, Secretary General of the UN conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN). Other bilateral meetings were held at Ministerial level with delegations from Nicaragua, Mali, Egypt, Vietnam, UAE, Netherlands and India.

