



SPEECH

BY

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT

HON. BEATRICE ATIM ANYWAR

AT THE

SWITCH AFRICA GREEN REGIONAL MEETING

SPEKE RESORT MUNYOYO HOTEL, KAMPALA

24th TO 26th FEBRUARY, 2020

The Right Honourable, Prime Minister,

Executive Director- NEMA,

Development Partners especially the United Nations and the European Union,

Government Officials,

Switch Africa Green Focal Persons, Grantees, Beneficiaries and Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure today to be part of this very important SWITCH AFRICA GREEN REGIONAL MEETING

The Vision of the Ministry of Water and Environment is *□Sound management and sustainable utilization of Water and Environment resources for the betterment of the population of Uganda□*. The word sustainable is interpreted as Green, therefore, this Switch Africa Green Regional Meeting is very timely, as the Ministry cannot ensure sustainability of *Water and Environment resources* and ensure the population competes in trade *□* locally, regionally or internationally without practicing green growth.

I would also like to express my appreciation towards our Development Partners, the European Union, UN Environment, and United Nations Development Program for the financial and technical support towards the realization of my Ministry's vision.

The Government of Uganda (GoU) is committed to the contribution, towards Goals and targets enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Additionally, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in partnership with the Government has embraced the SDGs and is aligned with the National Development Agenda.

To this end, the GoU has already integrated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the National Development frameworks, including the Uganda Vision 2040, the Second National Development Plan (NDP II), and the Sectoral Development Plans.

The transition to a green economy requires actions and significant technological, behavioral and systemic change at all levels of the society, including citizens, public sector and the private sector. It has been established that more radical innovations come from Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). MSMEs play a key role in the transition to

green economies and sustainable development in general by greening the existing business models and creating new business models that are not only economically profitable but also create environmental and social inclusiveness.

SWITCH Africa Green has supported green business practices in 3 key sectors, namely; agriculture, tourism and manufacturing. Since the introduction of the SWITCH Africa Green Project, it has been proven that green practices can greatly reduce environmental malpractices, increase green jobs especially for women and youths, improve livelihoods and thus a sustainable economy.

However, the road to transition to a green economy has not all been smooth as we still face constraints related to financing green initiatives, awareness creation among the public, acquisition of green technologies and enhancing human capacities to adopt and sustain sustainable production and consumption patterns.

The Regional platform offers up the opportunity to bring a wide range of stakeholders to discuss, update and recommend strategic direction on the inclusive green growth and its implementation worldwide

I therefore take this opportunity to wish to thank you all for fruitful deliberations and declare, this Switch Africa Green Regional Meeting closed

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY