Mechanisms to Steer Implementation of SDGs

Bernard Justus MUHWEZI
Manager, Geo-Information Services Division,
Chair, Geo-Information Management Working Group,
Uganda Chapter (2005)
Member, Inter Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Working Group on Geospatial Information (2016)
Uganda

• Uganda is still in the category of low developed countries, with most of the social and economic indicators still lagging behind many countries and thus all the SDGs are in line with Uganda’s current and future development needs and aspirations in pursuit of a middle income status by 2020

• Constraint

• The SDG 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and the global partnership for sustainable development is central to Uganda’s most pressing constraints. The major constraint that has affected realization of Uganda’s goals and targets in all previous plans is inefficiency in implementation which must be addressed.

National Coordination Policy

1. Government has in place the National Coordination Policy
   - Its purpose is to guide the coordination framework on SDGs in addition to other government programmes.
   - The policy outlines the guiding framework for management of Government’s coordination machinery to enhance public service delivery and effective implementation of national planning frameworks

2. Government is positioning itself to improve efficiency and coordination in implementation of the 2030 Agenda
   - Through modification of existing institutional and coordination frameworks to include 2030 Agenda
   - Through different levels of political and technical leadership
Political and Technical Leadership Levels

1. **SDGs Policy Coordination Committee (PCC)**
   - Comprised of members of Cabinet, Heads of UN Agencies, and Heads of Missions, chaired by the Prime Minister
   - It provides policy guidance and direction to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on SDGs, and reviews implementation
   - The policy outlines the guiding framework for management of Government’s coordination machinery to enhance public service delivery and effective implementation of national planning frameworks

2. **SDGs Implementation Steering Committee (ISC)**
   - Comprised of Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Agencies, and Development Partners
   - Chaired by Head of Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet
   - Reviews progress and make recommendations to the PCC

Political and Technical (cont…)

3. **The SDGs National Task Force (NTF)**
   - Comprised of technical officers from Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Local Government, National Planning Authority (NPA), United Nations, Non-Government Organization Forum, and Private Sector Foundation of Uganda
   - Chaired by the Permanent Secretary in the OPM
   - The committee will meet quarterly to review reports from technical working groups for consideration by ISC
Political and Technical (cont…)

4. SDGs Technical Working Groups (TWGs)
   - There are five SDGs Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to engage various ministries as follows:
     - Coordination, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting TWG led by OPM
     - Data TWG led by Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)
     - Planning TWG led by NPA
     - Communication and Advocacy TWG led by OPM
     - Finance TWG led by MoFPED

5. Strengthening Implementation Planning
   - NPA will act as a clearing house through which SDGs interventions, cross cutting in nature will be coordinated to ensure that stakeholder’s plans are synchronized. This will reduce duplication of resources and lead to efficient and effective implementation of the SDGs

Next Steps

1. Realigning a 30 year timeframe in which to realize development goals as set out in the Uganda Vision 2040

2. The 15 year planning framework provides Uganda adequate time to articulate the medium-term development goals and targets (10 years and 5 years) and ample time to implement and progressively measure ourselves

3. Fast track the implementation of the National Development Plan II (NDPII) results framework

4. Finalize the development of the National Standard Indicators for monitoring the NDPII

5. Fast track the implementation of the coordination and results monitoring mechanisms as well as reporting processes nationally and internationally
Next Steps (cont…)

6. Further integrate indicators and targets in all other planning and implementation documents including; the Sector Development Plans, Local Government Development Plans and budgets

7. There is need as a country to agree what is achievable in the third and fourth National Development Plans covering the 15 year period of the 2030 Agenda

8. Integrate the population growth and structure issue as well as governance at the center of all development in the implementation of 2030 Agenda and national goals

9. A proposal being drafted to form a sixth SDGs Technical Working Groups (TWGs): Geospatial Information TWG derived from Geo-Information Management Working Group

Conclusion

There is national realization that it is through the national development plans that the SDGs will be implemented, owned and achieved. Therefore, it is necessary that there is strong coordination among the different stakeholders involved, and for them to understand their roles in guiding the planning and implementation processes, effective resource mobilization, good governance and capacity development to ensure successful implementation and realization of the SDGs and set national targets.