

10 February 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,  
President of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
at a panel discussion on “The role of parliaments, cities and local  
authorities in the implementation of the post-2015 development  
agenda”**

**Excellencies,  
Honourable Members of Parliament  
Distinguished Mayors,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to welcome you to this morning’s panel discussion, as part of the high-level thematic debate on the “Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda”.

As we discussed yesterday, we will formulate an ambitious and transformative development framework this year, to be agreed upon by world leaders this coming September. For our sustainable development goals to be met, we must ensure that we mobilize adequate financial resources, technology development and transfer, as well as capacity-building.

Most importantly, we have to ensure that the agenda is implemented at the grassroots: in the rural villages and local communities; in urban areas and cities. In today’s panel discussion, we will discuss the important role that parliaments, cities and local authorities will play in the implementation of the new agenda.

**Excellencies,**

As pillars of democratic governance, parliaments have an important role to play in shaping the implementation of sustainable development objectives. They are important in ensuring that the voices of the people are listened to and included in the development process. This enhances ownership, which is vital for the success of this agenda. Through their oversight function, they can promote accountability to ensure that development commitments are met at the national level. They can also ensure sustained and sufficient funding for development programmes.

Parliaments play an important role in legislative processes by setting rules and norms, which can contribute to the creation of appropriate policies and strategies, while also ensuring good governance at the domestic level.

In this context, parliaments will play a critical role in the future development framework at the national, regional and international levels.

**Distinguished Colleagues,**

At the Rio+20 Conference, Member States recognized that “cities are engines of economic growth which, if well planned and developed...can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies”. Indeed, cities are economic engines within our communities.

Cities, as well as local authorities, are leading actors in providing basic social services, which are critical to meeting many of our sustainable development objectives, including those related to health, education, water and sanitation. Given their direct responsibility to deliver services to citizens, the impact cities and local authorities have on people’s daily lives is evident.

The provision of services and infrastructure, particularly in the context of urbanization, must be at the heart of national efforts to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty. Steps must be taken to address the numerous and complex challenges faced by urban centers, especially those related to issues of economic and social development, and environmental stewardship.

An integrated holistic approach that involves both national and local authorities across all sectors will be an essential prerequisite for sustainable development, and must be duly addressed within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Large-scale investments, especially those targeting urban centres, will be needed to realise our sustainable development goals. Urban capital will have to be mobilised to increase livelihood opportunities and standards of living for all citizens. Traditional and innovative ways of mobilizing appropriate resources therefore must be explored, including through municipal bonds, tax incentives and other financing mechanisms and schemes.

I thank you all for being here for this important discussion.