**FORUM:** Economic and Social Council

**QUESTION OF:** Taking Measures to Reduce Development Gap Between Northern Uganda and Rest of the Country

**MAIN-SUBMITTED BY:** United Kingdom

**CO-SUBMITTED BY:** United States of America, France, India, Israel, Sri Lanka, Iran, Russia, Japan, South Africa, Palestine,

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

*Fully aware* that the UN and its Uganda work towards achieving 17 interconnected and Sustainable Development Goals,

*Considering* reducing development gap in a country is challenging, requiring long-term cooperation, aid, and support,

*Noting* that since 1987, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a violent rebel group, has been fighting the Uganda government in the northern part of the country and this lead the longstanding political divide between north and south of Uganda,

*Noting* the world-bank that the growth in Uganda since 2011 has barely surpassed the country’s high population growth rate of 3%, and in the five years prior to the COVID-19 crisis, per capita real GDP growth halved to 1.1% on average per year,

*Recognizing* the burden of illnesses in Uganda is transitioning from tropical and infectious diseases to common non-communicable diseases while most Ugandan government health facilities focus on infectious diseases,

*Realizing* that Uganda is undergoing more extreme weather events such as flooding, as well as prolonged dry and warmer spells, while these events could incur annual economic costs of 2.8-4.5% of GDP in 2010-50,

*Observing* Uganda faces major challenges in providing quality and accessible basic education to children and adolescents with inequitable access, for example, the highest Secondary Net Enrolment is seen in Kampala (52 percent) and lowest in Acholi (7 percent),

*Acknowledging* according to Uganda Bureau of Statistics,in 2019/2020, 12.3 million people (30.1% of the population) lived below the poverty line of U.S. $1.77 per person per day, showing lived poverty remains high despite Uganda’s poverty-alleviation initiatives,

1. Calls upon the member states and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to raise awareness of the actions of discrimination and exclusion in social areas in Northern Uganda in such ways but not limited to:
	1. Exploiting representative Social Network Services (SNS) such as, but no limited to, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok that people have access to advertise such things but not limited to:
		1. campaigns to help people who are discriminated against,
		2. short messages or pictures to encourage people to stop discrimination,
	2. Utilize various kinds of physical advertisements to notify people, who do not have access to SNS, to raise awareness, but not limited to:
		1. newspaper,
		2. news articles,
		3. magazines,
		4. posters;
2. Encourages nations to create a new organization called Help Peoples of Uganda (HPU) that involves nations that are well developed countries in Growth Domestic Products to provide additional support to Northern Uganda's health sector in such ways but not limited to:
	1. Encourages the nations to fund resources and money for the Balamu project in Uganda, a project that aims to strengthen non-communicable diseases (NCD) research, education, and care through patient empowerment:
		1. construction of health facilities which provides medical equipment and medicines,
		2. advance cooperative research project in NCDs,
	2. Urges the nations of UN that are involved in the HPU to provide additional fund support for Uganda's health sector,
	3. Requesting nations that are in the HPU to provide funds annually that can help in maintaining the organization;
3. Encourages all members states and organizations of UN to support the Uganda government with stronger preparation and aids for natural disasters in rural areas:
	1. Providing financial aid in building and maintaining infrastructure such as but not limited to:
		1. strengthening drainage system to remove the excess water such as floodwater, rainwater, and wasted waters in development and to reduces soil and nutrient loss from the runoff waters,
		2. building flood control dams to keep floodwaters impounded and to ensure that the damages caused by flooding are kept at to the bare minimum,
		3. building earthquake-resistance houses that redistribute forces that travel through them during a seismic event using different methods such as shear walls, cross braces, diaphragms and moment-resisting frames to reduce the damage of houses done by earthquakes,
	2. Encouraging the other nations to provide medical aids and financial aids for people in Northern Uganda who are suffering from the outcomes of natural disasters;
4. Calls upon the member states to provide and support an accessible and quality education system so people in Northern Uganda can get the education they need by increasing international education support to Northern Uganda by, but not limited to:
	1. cooperating with global organizations such as World Vision, Save The Children, and UNICEF to build schools and libraries in regions where children and people lack access to education,
	2. Creating educational videos that teaches the required education so anyone could access it online when they could in such ways but not limited to;
		1. Explainer videos,
		2. Tutorial Videos,
		3. Cartoons with moral lessons,
	3. Dispatching academic experts and educational psychologists by such ways of:
		1. offering part time job opportunity for university students who are interested and volunteering for community service,
		2. inviting motivational speakers and lecturers twice a year who are experts in a specific area,
		3. holding an annual conference and seminar for teachers and educators to learn and improve education system in Northern Uganda;
5. Requests UN member states and UN agencies, such as UN Women, OHCHR, and UNHRC to cooperate with each other to form a new UN umbrella organization that mainly focuses on the rights of women in Northern Uganda so women could participate in business and politics which helps advance gender equality and affects both the range of policy issues that get considered and the types of solutions that are proposed by:
	1. Improving policies and laws about women rights to eliminate gender discrimination and promote women’s right in society by:
		1. Suggesting to legislate rules that prohibit discrimination toward women in forms of unequal wages and unequal employment to ensure protection of the rights of females,
		2. Suggesting to strengthen punishment regarding to gender-based violence in public by requesting to the United Nations Human Right Council (UNHRC) to show the data collection and analysis to alert the seriousness of the current situations,
	2. Calling support upon the member states to provide educations in gender-neutral environment for students to prevent students from having gender stereotypes such as but not limited to:
		1. requesting annual review of textbooks, lectures, and materials to ensure gender inequality does not perpetuate with the cooperation of the chosen from the member states,
		2. collaborating with various non-governmental organizations advocating for education to provide higher education on gender equality especially to the children, guaranteeing the exposure to the fair environment during young ages,
		3. running fundraising program for helping women who need financial support by cooperating with NGOs around the world;
6. Further requests international aid and support from UN member states to promote a robust economy in Uganda in such ways but not limited to:
	1. Support Small to Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) in such ways but not limited to:
		1. provide chances for the SMEs in Northern Uganda to collaborate with each other and major companies to maintain their companies,
		2. provide financial incentives such as tax relief to SMEs to reduce the amount of taxes the SMEs have to pay,
		3. host regular business fair to advertise SME companies in Uganda to international companies and investors,
	2. strengthen skill training of people who do not have jobs and provide them internship,
	3. suggests the government and other nation to provide supports in such areas but not limited to:
		1. supporting financial and agricultural machinery for famers in Northern Uganda,
		2. annually making sure that working environments are clean, employees get their salaries at time,
		3. encourage the use of renewable energy in rural areas,
		4. making sure everyone including the rural areas have access to internet,
		5. provide free medical examination to those in rural places every three months.