



**UGANDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
ON HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

26th - 29th September | Mestil Hotel, Kampala

The right to Health: A vital component in achieving SDGs



**CEHURD**  
social justice in health

## THE RIGHT TO HEALTH: A VITAL COMPONENT IN ACHIEVING SDGS MESTIL HOTEL, KAMPALA

### KAMPALA DECLARATION ON HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

This declaration has been made by the delegates at the Inaugural Uganda National Conference on Health, Human Rights and Development (UCHD) held at Mestil Hotel Between 27th to 29th of September 2023. This conference was attended by delegates from Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies; Civil Society Actors including Community Based Organisations; Human Rights Advocates; Members of Parliament and duty bearers from all levels of the healthcare system; legal practitioners; the users of the healthcare system including the marginalized and vulnerable communities, researchers; academics; students and young people, private sector and development partners. The conference was held under the theme; “The Right to Health: A vital component in achieving SDGs.” This conference was held to facilitate an understanding of the trends and progress being made on the Right to health in Uganda in an effort to realize SDGs and accelerate further action.

The Conference was hosted by the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development and the Ministry of Health of Uganda with partners such as Makerere University, School of Public Health. It was supported by various development partners.

We, the delegates assembled at the First Uganda National Conference on Health, Human Rights and Development with dedicated efforts towards realizing the right to health, reaffirm that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

#### **Preamble**

**Recognizing** that the right to health is a fundamental part of our human rights and human dignity which is incorporated in international and regional human rights treaties and in national laws, policies and strategies;

**Recalling** that Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being for all aims to enable nations to realise the right to health for all irrespective of their social, cultural and economic status, as well as their sex, race, sexual orientation and setting of care;

**Recognizing** that SDG 3 intersects with all other SDGs, such as ending poverty, gender equality, quality education and climate action and that the right to health encompasses healthcare as well as social determinants of health;

**Realizing** that the multi-sectoral approach is grounded in all Uganda’s policy and strategy documents;

**Cognizant** of the fact that there are seven years to 2030 within which to fully realise the promise of leaving no one behind in alignment to the sustainable development goals and 17 years to realizing Uganda's Vision 2040;

**Recognizing** that progress has been made towards the realization of good health and well-being for Ugandans through the country's plans and initiatives towards Universal Health Coverage;

**Recognizing** the need to tackle health inequities and inequalities through national political commitment, policies and international cooperation, with emphasis on social, economic and environmental and other determinants of health;

**Aware of** key legal precedents such as the Landmark Constitutional Court Judgements on maternal health (Petition 16) and comprehensive sexuality education that set out clear actions necessary for effective access to Maternal health including increasing financing for health, training of health workers, establishing a progressive sexuality education policy among others;

**Cognizant** of the renewed commitments at the 2023 UN High Level Meetings on TB, Pandemic Preparedness and Universal Health Coverage with specific emphasis on strengthening health workforce and rapid response capacities, surveillance and local manufacturing capacities;

**Aware** of our persistent challenges in realizing our national indicators and targets on achieving the right to health for all;

**Remembering that** Uganda's population is a largely young and diverse population facing serious challenges in accessing sexual reproductive health information and services, as well as employment and other opportunities for realizing their full potential;

**Having witnesses** how disease epidemics and pandemics such the Covid-19 can worsen inequalities and inequities in access to healthcare services especially for the most vulnerable people;

**Do Hereby** adopt to this Kampala Declaration on this 29th Day of September, 2023, with the following commitments:

- 1.** The Ministry of Health and indeed other government line ministries to provide leadership for an integrated and multi-sectoral approach in collaboration with implementing partners, which recognises the intersectionality between SDG 3, human rights and other SDGs as we design and implement healthcare programmes;
- 2.** The Ministry of Health to strengthen collaboration across all sectors in advancing the right to health working collaboratively with implementing partners;
- 3.** Ministry of Health to fast-track Government's process of passing and implementing the National Health Insurance scheme in order to realise Universal Health Coverage;
- 4.** Government through the Parliament to progressively increase financing for health in order to realise the Abuja Declaration of allocating 15% of national budget towards health;

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5. The Ministry of Health and implementing partners to advocate for health in all policies, strategies and programmes;
  6. The Ministry of Health and implementing partners to advocate for sexual and reproductive health in all policies and programmes;
  7. The Ministry of Health, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and implementing partners to effectively integrate the health needs of the marginalised and vulnerable communities, including the youth, key populations and persons with disabilities and in their diversities in all programming and interventions – health, education, gender and social protection, among others;
  8. Ministry of Health, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and implementing partners to increase the generation and utilisation of evidence in planning and implementation of health interventions, including on social determinants of health;
  9. Ministry of Health, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and implementing partners to pay special attention to the unique health needs of adolescents and young people, with a focus on their sexual and reproductive health;
  10. Ministry of Health, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and implementing partners to promote innovative approaches that aim to facilitate equitable access to healthcare services including social and technological advancements and self-care.
  11. The Parliamentary Committee on Health to propose and prioritise amendment of the Constitution to include explicit provisions on the right to health as already pronounced by court in Petition 16, with support from CSOs such as CEHURD.
  12. Parliament, Ministry of Health and other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to approve and implement appropriate laws, policies and strategies that ensure universal access to healthcare as well as sexual and reproductive health in particular;
  13. Ministry of Health, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and implementing partners to implement measures to promote and improve mental health and well-being as an essential component of universal health coverage, with special attention to the most vulnerable people including the youth, people who use drugs and persons with disabilities in their diversities;
  14. Parliament, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Education, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and implementing partners commit to end Sexual Gender Based Violence among all women and girls through effective implementation of existing legal and policy frameworks, ensuring that perpetrators of SGBV are held accountable and provide access to justice and related services to survivors of violence.

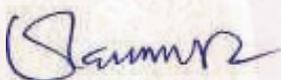
15. Parliament, Ministry of Health, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and implementing partners to take measures to reduce maternal, neonatal, infant and child mortality, teenage pregnancies, unmet need for Family Planning and morbidity and increase access to quality health-care services for newborns, infants, children as well as all women before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health;
16. Ministry of Health and Parliament to strengthen the monitoring and supervision of public and private health facilities to ensure quality service delivery and mitigate health rights violations;
17. Parliament, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Education, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and implementing partners to implement most effective, high impact, quality-assured, people-centred, gender and disability responsive, and evidence-based interventions to meet the health needs of all throughout the life course, and in particular those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations including refugees, ensuring universal access to nationally determined sets of integrated quality health services at all levels of care for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care in a timely manner
18. Parliament, Ministry of Health and other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to enhance emergency health preparedness and response systems in alignment to laws such as the Public Health Act 2023, as well as strengthen capacities at national and local government level, including to mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural disasters on health.
19. Parliament, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Education, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and implementing partners to be accountable to each other as key stakeholders committed to the realisation of the right to health for all people.

## Conclusion

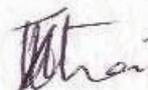
In witness whereof, we hereby adopt the Kampala Declaration on Health, Human Rights and Development as a testament to our unwavering commitment to realising the right to health for all and walk toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2030.

**Dated at Kampala this 29th Day of September, 2023.**

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF ALL DELEGATES FOLLOWING CONSENSUS:**



Dr Olaro Charles  
Director, Curative Services  
Ministry of Health, Uganda



Fatia Kiyange  
Executive Director  
Center for Health, Human Rights &  
Development (CEHURD)