



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**Speech by Ambassador Attilio PACIFICI
Head of European Union Delegation to the Republic of Uganda**

**Launch of Development Initiative for Northern Uganda
programme (DINU)**

OPM Conference Hall, 4th May 2018

Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda,

Honourable Ministers and State Ministers

Members of Parliament present,

Your Excellencies Ambassadors, High Commissioners and

Country Representatives of International Organisations,

Permanent secretaries and members of Government present,

Representatives of the Uganda Police Force

Representatives from local governments,

Dear partners,

Members of the press,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honour to be here today representing the European Union at the launch of the **Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU)**.

This large new programme is important for Uganda as well as for the European Union. This programme is a mark of a long standing partnership and of the commitment of the European people to continue working closely with the people of Uganda. It is through these initiatives desired, conceived, planned and to be implemented together that we deepen and strengthen our partnership even more.

I am glad to see that a large audience has made it to this event today. It is an audience made of good friends and respected colleagues, just the way we Europeans want our relations with all our partners to be: friendly, respectful, useful and effective. Thank you to all for being here today!

Right Honourable Prime Minister, it has been a comprehensive and also lengthy process to design this large multi-sector programme, and over the past months a tremendous preparatory work has been done by the implementing partners together with your office and with

other government agencies in order to be ready for the operational phase which is about to start.

I would like to express my most sincere appreciation and gratitude to all stakeholders for the fruitful collaboration and for the support received until now.

Northern Uganda has been receiving a lot of attention over the past decades and impressive progress has been made over the past ten years, since the return of peace and stability in a region which continues to be the main focus of European Union development cooperation programmes.

Impressive progress has been made indeed but in some areas new challenges have emerged while in other areas not all the old challenges have been fully overcome. For instance, the huge influx of South-Sudanese refugees is a new prominent challenge in the North-West while in Karamoja some security challenges and threats still keep coming from across the borders.

Notwithstanding the substantial and sustained progress in human and economic development made in recent times,

Northern Uganda still lags behind compared to other parts of Uganda. The number of individuals living under the poverty line is increasing as a result of the **very high population growth rate in the region**. Poverty has become increasingly concentrated in the Northern and Eastern regions of Uganda while the Central and Western regions have experienced a more rapid poverty reduction.

Further efforts are therefore required to narrow this gap and to respond to the specific challenges faced by the people of Northern Uganda. This is why the EU, through this programme (DINU), as well as through other programmes, continues to invest in Northern Uganda. We are committed to support the people, the Government of Uganda and other stakeholders to ensure long lasting peace, security and stability and the development of the region.

The time is ripe for profiting of the opportunities that the Northern region offers to speed up its development. Agriculture – in fact commercial agriculture - is a sector with great potential particularly through processing and value-addition of agricultural products. Delivery of

services in agriculture, such as agribusiness service, construction and trade also present excellent potential for economic growth.

Agriculture deserves a special attention as despite its high potential, its contribution to poverty reduction and improved nutrition in northern Uganda has been limited. This is due most notably to the malfunctioning of value chains, poor transport infrastructures, insufficient level of public and private investments and the limited capacities of local governments to respond to local needs and to deliver quality services to citizens.

Right Honourable Prime Minister,

We have a long history of supporting Northern Uganda. With the Northern Uganda Rehabilitation Programme (NUREP) implemented under the 9th EDF (2006-2010), the EU contributed to build peace in the region and to initiate its socio-economic recovery. Through two subsequent programmes, the “*Northern Uganda Agricultural Livelihoods Recovery Programme (ALREP)*” and the “*Karamoja Livelihoods Programme (KALIP)*”

implemented respectively in the Greater North and in Karamoja from 2010 to 2015, we invested even more in the improvement of livelihoods through a strong support to the agricultural sector.

Those have been successful programmes, but there are always lessons to be learned. That is why DINU, the direct successor of those programmes (ALREP and KALIP), uses a different approach: **in fact a multi-sectoral approach.**

Under the new DINU programme, we will move from a sector-oriented support to an integrated territorial approach with the aim of "**connecting the dots**" between sectors, actors and areas in order to better achieve inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development.

Not only will the programme look at leveraging agriculture for food security and better nutrition, it will also encourage the development of commercial agriculture by supporting a selected number of key value-chains. In addressing identified value chain bottlenecks in close collaboration with the private sector, we believe we will have an

effective tool with which we can support the creation of jobs and increase household incomes in the region.

The support to value chains will be complemented by activities aiming at unlocking trade and increasing market accessibility through the improvement of enabling factors such as transport and logistics as well as water and energy infrastructure.

Right Honourable Prime Minister,

I must underline that the DINU integrated approach also recognizes the crucial facilitating role to be played by local authorities and local governments in achieving development outcomes and ensuring service delivery. Therefore, under the programme, considerable support will be provided to local governments, to enable them to better fulfil their mandates and respond to the needs of the citizens. Improved planning and budgeting, better sector management and service delivery, improved upwards and downwards accountability - those are some of the areas which we will be supported under the DINU.

Northern Uganda is of course not a homogenous block; it is a vast region consisting of 33 districts. It has diverse livelihood zones and different sub-regions facing specific challenges and opportunities, with different cultures and histories as well as different objectives. All this will be taken into account.

Even though the total budget of the programme of approximately **EUR 150 million** (or at the current exchange rate nearly 670 billion Uganda Shilling) is considerable, these financial resources are not sufficient to respond to all the needs. Therefore, in order not to spread these resources too thinly, a scoping study was undertaken on the basis of which a selection of districts was made.

Among the **33 districts** which will benefit from DINU, 16 have been designated as core districts across the 5 sub-regions. In these core districts, we will seek maximum synergies between the various components of the programme. By doing so, we will ensure that the initiative leads to more effective results and a greater impact on the ground.

Right Honourable Prime Minister,

DINU is a complex multi-sectoral undertaking that will require the full engagement of the many partners involved. We must all commit to fully explore the synergies between the various components of the programme by building strong partnerships, bringing on board the private sector and involving the local governments as well as the civil society.

We are looking forward to working with your Office, with the relevant ministries and agencies and all the partners in the implementation of this new and ambitious programme.

Finally, one special note of appreciation must be addressed to the key partners that will support the implementation of the programme: DFID, GIZ, UNCDF and UNICEF.

I thank you for your attention.

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