CUSHIONING UGANDA AGAINST GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC SHOCKS

A Synthesis Report of the Proceedings of the High-Level Policy Dialogue on the State of the Economy

ACODE Policy Dialogues Paper Series No.37, 2022

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACODE	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
APC	Africa Policy Center
CBEG	Centre for Budget and Economic Governance
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CSBAG	Civil Society for Budget Advocacy Group
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
FSMEs	Federation of Small and Medium Enterprises
FY	Financial Year
GEC	Green Economy Coalition
GOU	Government of Uganda
HLPD	High-Level Policy Dialogue
KACITA	Kampala Capital City Traders Association
MDAs	Ministries Departments and Agencies
MoFPED	The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MSMEs	Medium and Small Enterprises
NBS	National Broadcasting Services
NDP	National Development Plan
NPA	National Planning Authority
PDM	Parish Development Model
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UGX	Ugandan Shillings

Summary of Key Issues

Uganda is currently experiencing a surge in the prices of commodities. In particular, Between January and April 2022, the country's headline inflation increased by 0.81 percentage points to 4.9 percent. The economy has also witnessed unprecedented revenue shortfalls in the past 2 years of nearly UGX 2.5 trillion. In addition, the admission of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the East African Community (EAC) could change the regional trading dynamics and increase capital inflows due to Foreign Direct Investments, but also pose a threat of dumping and revenue losses due to the adoption of a Common External Tariff (CET).

The key drivers of the inflationary pressures are majorly external and supply related as pointed below: i) The post Covid-19 pandemic global recovery that led to an overwhelming demand for commodities and raw materials, ii) The geopolitical tensions caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, iii) Negative implications of climate change, iv) The global supply chain disruptions due to China's Zero-Covid 19 policy that led to the subsequent lockdown of several Chinese cities (e.g., Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing, etc.), and lastly, the soaring international fuel prices.

On a whole, Ugandans are experiencing a cocktail of economic problems including rising prices of some of the essential goods and services, in particular, the prices of cooking oil, laundry bar soap, fuel (petrol and diesel), and some services such as transport fares and education services which have recently increased and caused discomfort to the public.

1.0 Introduction

On Thursday, 5 May 2022, the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), Africa Policy Center (APC), and Next Media Services organized a High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on the state of the economy. The theme of the Dialogue was 'Cushioning Uganda against Global, Regional and National Economic Shocks' with the main objective of setting the ground for open discourse on the economy and a route to inclusive and sustainable recovery guided by transparent fiscal and monetary policy formulation and implementation processes. The dialogue was held at the MoFPED conference hall and was aired on NBS TV and live-streamed on Facebook. The discussions in the dialogue focused on the possible catalysts for inclusive economic recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic and the sorrowing commodity prices to sustainable economic development. This report captures the Dialogue Proceedings.

The Dialogue discussions were guided by the following topics;

- The state of the Economy and Government Interventions on the Rising Commodity Prices
- The plight of traders in the wake of Global, regional, and National Economic shocks
- National planning authority's role in mitigating Economic shocks in Uganda
- The DRC's admission to the East African Community and its economic implications for Uganda and the community.
- The Implications of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on Uganda's Economy
- The Implication of the fuel prices on Small and Medium Enterprises in Uganda

This narrative report details the proceedings of the high-level policy dialogue, key policy discussions, and recommendations to Cushion Uganda against global, regional, and national economic shocks. The dialogue included a keynote presentation by MoFPED and a panel of eminent professionals and plenary discussions. The presenters and panelists were drawn from various spheres including the Academia, Civil society, private sector (FSMSE, KACITA, UMA), development partners, Members of Parliament, the general public, and Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDA's). The hybrid dialogue was attended by 59 physical participants (15 females and 44 males), and 56 via zoom teleconferencing. The proceedings were also broadcast live on NBS television where it's believed to have reached 1700 People. On social media, the dialogue reached about 1,906,122 people via ACODE's Twitter page, and 758000 via the NBS. The dialogue was also streamed live on ACODE's Facebook page where it reached 144 people.

1.1 Background and Rationale

The increasing global commodity prices have slowed down the economic recovery of the global economy from the devastating impact of the COVID-19 shocks, which had severely affected the world for the last two years through disruptions of global trade. The subsequent lockdown measures and their uncertain resurgences caused global economic deterioration and a sharp increase in market volatility where several economies operated cautiously below capacity due to the unpredictable evolution of the virus. According to the World Bank commodities market outlook 2022, the war in Ukraine has dealt a major shock to commodity markets, altering global patterns of trade, production, and consumption in ways that will keep prices at historically high levels through the end of 2024.

Currently, in Uganda, commodity prices of essential goods have continuously risen occasioned by high fuel prices, which is affecting the demand for goods and services, and the state of socio-economic welfare of citizens. The interaction of all these parameters has influenced differently the economic stability of Uganda and the socio-economic welfare of citizens, which require consolidated interventions.

Amidst the current economic shocks within the East African Community, Uganda recently opened its borders with Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo was ushered into the East African Community thus creating a bigger market for our products but also having better access to commodities and services we do not offer. Furthermore, Uganda also created an enabling environment for investors in Oil and Gas to make the Final Investment Decision and as such, we expect quite an inflow of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI).

In addition, the performance of Uganda's economy is projected to increase to about 3.8per cent in the FY 2021/22, compared to the performance of 3.4per cent in the FY 2020/21, however, there are aspects of the real economy that are playing out casually but proving to be subtle beasts. One such aspect is inflation. On the record, annual headline and core inflation are below the Monetary Policy aimed target of 5per cent, and as such, one can argue that there is no cause for alarm. However, certain categories like motor vehicle fuel and some household items like laundry soap and, cooking oil seem to be running ahead of the other commodities in the consumption basket. Notably, the context of rising fuel prices is not unique to Uganda as many of the EAC partner states are faced with a similar scenario including observable crises in neighboring Kenya albeit the subsidy interventions. Prices for construction materials like cement and steel bars have too steadily had a price increase that has distorted many infrastructure project costings real estate investors but also possibly for public sector projects. The Producer Price Index (PPI) for local market manufacturing increased by 17per cent between March 2021 and March 2022. PPIs for the manufacture of sugar, prepared animal feeds and vegetable oils increased by 18per cent, 54per cent, and 28per cent respectively in March 2022.

The main objective of the dialogue was to set the ground for open discourse on the economy a route to inclusive and sustainable recovery guided by transparent fiscal and monetary policy formulation and implementation processes. The objectives of the dialogue were to Inform the media on the state of the economy and consequently the public, Provide an opportunity for Non-State Actors to share possible courses of action that the government/ MoFPED can consider to reduce the plight to the citizens who have to bear the weight of the few but with far-reaching economic consequences, and lastly to Provide an opportunity for Government/MoFPED to clarify its course of action and policy direction on the current strain on economic agents occasioned by the performance of certain macro-economic indicators – like inflation, as we head towards economic recovery.

The Dialogue came at a time when Uganda and all East African Countries are preparing budgets for the Fiscal Year 2022/23. Understanding how such shocks can be cushioned especially for the marginalized population through the budget process would be of the essence for the citizenry.

2.0 Dialogue Proceedings: Welcome Remarks, Keynote Address, Panel Discussion, and Preliminary.

2.1 Highlights of the Discussion

Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha – Executive Director, ACODE

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Bainomugisha welcomed the participants and thanked them for turning up in large numbers. He also thanked the partners of ACODE (MoFPED, CSBAG, NBS, and APC) for organizing the dialogue. He said that the main reason for the dialogue was to discuss the rising commodity prices, and increasing hardships, for the vulnerable citizens, which is not only in Uganda but also across the world. He attributed the rise in commodity prices to the adverse effect of Covid19,

Figure 2: Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha giving Opening remarks at the dialogue

Russia- the Ukraine conflict and climate change. He added that if unchecked, this could lead to food supply shocks and anarchy in the form of strikes, as is already the case in countries such as Sudan, Zimbabwe, Peru, Sri Lanka, and Haiti among others. He continued to add that the resurgence of Covid19 and subsequent lock-down in Chinese cities such as Shenzhen has negative implications on trade, especially for the developing countries.

Dr. Bainomugisha added that despite the rising prices, regional trading partners' dynamics such as the opening of Rwanda and Uganda borders and the admission of DRC could increase Foreign Direct Investments; however, this may also pose a threat of dumping. He also highlighted the Parish Development Model (PDM) as one of the intervention opportunities that needs to be harnessed and as a result, its implementation should be closely monitored to achieve the intended outcomes. He also called on the government to manage the debt but also to invest in climate change adaptation strategies to mitigate its effects on the economy.

In conclusion, Dr. Bainomugisha expressed hope that the dialogue would be an event for sharing experiences and encouraged participants to engage in candid discussions aimed at generating ideas that will spar economic recovery.

Mr. Julius Mukunda – Executive Director, CSBAG

Mr. Mukunda giving his opening remarks noted that as the economy grows, challenges would keep coming; therefore, the most important remedy is that government should come through with workable solutions. He continued to suggest that since most of the price increase is from imported commodities, an Import substitution strategy for commodities that can be produced locally such as wheat, rice, onions, and potatoes among others would be a good remedy.

Figure 3: Left, Mr. Julius Mukunda - Executive Director, CSBAG

In addition, Mr. Mukunda also emphasized that food reserves need to be restored to deal with times of scarcity and solve crises such as the current food and oil crisis the country is in. He also noted that Moral hazards (black market) and hoarding have also increased and he wondered whether the government had thought of putting any strategies for consumer protection.

He concluded by accentuating a need for technology adaptability to deal with issues of climate change and thanked everyone particularly MoFPED for the platform to stage a dialogue that would harness ideas to tackle the issues of the rising commodity prices.

2.2 Keynote Address

State of the Economy and Government Interventions on the Rising Commodity Prices: Mr. Moses Kaggwa –Director of economic affairs, MoFPED

While delivering the Keynote address on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of MoFPED, Mr. Kaggwa informed the participants that the genesis of the economic shocks originated from the Covid-19 outbreak, which caused massive loss of lives worldwide. Uganda lost about 3,597 people. He emphasized that the pandemic caused unprecedented challenges in the economy and the world at large. Covid-19 also led to rising inflation in some countries especially developing countries

Mr. Kaggwa further noted that resilient economies like the USA, which has experienced the highest levels of inflation (8.5 percent) in 40 years, have low levels of unemployment, which cushions their citizens from the pinch of rising commodity prices, unlike Uganda whose bigger part of the population depends on subsistence farming. He continued to add that, at the peak of the pandemic the global economy's growth declined by 3.1 percent in 2020. The Ugandan economy had been growing at about 6 per cent, which declined to 2.9 per cent. A large portion of the labor force moved from modern and semi-modern sectors to subsistence agriculture increasing the share of working persons in subsistence sectors from 41 per cent to 52 per cent. This largely increased the hand-to-mouth population in Uganda.

Figure 4: Mr. Moses Kaggwa (Left) -Director of economic affairs, MoFPED giving a key note address

Mr. Kaggwa explained that because of the current prevailing situations, the economy does not have enough resilience to deal with rising commodity prices. In addition, the government also witnessed unprecedented revenue shortfalls in the past 2 years of about UGX 2.5 trillion yet expenditure needs to be increased to finance the enforcement of Covid-19 protocols to save Ugandan lives. He noted that economists are aware that an economy takes time for external shocks to manifest themselves and in this case, they have started with rising commodity prices of essential items, particularly laundry bar soap, fuel, cooking oil, education services and building materials and, as a result, the Ugandan inflation has increased to 3.7 per cent in March 2022.

The causes of the increase in commodity prices are largely due to external and supply-side related, key of which are; the effect of the Covid-19 restriction which disrupted supply chains worldwide leading to i) higher transport costs, ii) shortage of shipping containers, iii) shortage of raw materials and iv) higher fuel prices. This cocktail has curtailed smooth manufacturing and movement of goods and services leading to increased commodity prices. He also mentioned a noticeable increase in demand for crude palm oil outstripping supply with the re-opening of the economies, which has a path-through effect on economies that import crude oil like Uganda.

He further noted that the Russia-Ukraine Invasion had major impacts on increased commodity prices recognizing that Uganda imports 70per cent of its wheat from Ukraine and Russia. They disrupted the supply of maize and wheat, however, the Government is responding to these shocks in the following ways;

i. The Government is maintaining a competitive environment to support a continuous supply of goods and services to avoid creating more shortages. He emphasized that High prices with steady supply are a better sustainability outcome.

ii. The Government is also supporting farmers to grow more food to avoid food shortages since food prices are a big driver of inflation in Uganda. The Government believes that supporting farmers will alleviate the plight the economy is facing as well as continued Government investment in infrastructure i.e. Industrial parks, oil production, and, energy.

iii. The Government is also dealing with wasteful expenditure and has so far saved UGX 1.6 trillion from different votes, which will be repurposed to contribute to the movement of the 39 percent of households from subsistence to a modern economy (increase in Agriculture production and productivity moved around the PDM).

iv. Facilitating more exports to take advantage of the shocks to reduce imported inflation because of the depreciation of the exchange rate.

v. The government also does not intend to impose tax increments in the FY 2022/23 to ensure growth in production on the journey to recovery.

vi. The government has established the Small business recovery fund of UGX 200billion along with Emyooga interventions and more focus on Agriculture insurance to help small businesses to recover, also the Government has secured some money in the Uganda Development Bank to be lent at a competitive rate and similarly injecting money in Uganda Development Corporation(UDC) to partner with the private sector.

In conclusion, he reiterated that Inflation in Uganda remains low because we have not suffered a lot of food inflation noting different inflation rates of other economies like the USA (8.5 per cent), the UK (7 per cent), India (11.7 per cent), Kenya (6.3 per cent) and, Rwanda (7.5 per cent). He added that the size of Uganda's economy was UGX 147.6 trillion by December 2021 and is expected to increase to UGX 153.85 trillion by end of FY 2021/22. The economy is projected to grow by 4.5 percent in FY 2021/22 and 6per cent in the next year driven by public investments and a rebound in economic activities since the reopening of the economy. Mr. Kaggwa reiterated that Subsidies are good if an Economy can afford them but because the government does not have the financial ability to contain the debt and also cannot forecast how long the crisis would last, a subsidy is not a sustainable intervention.

Finally, Mr. Kaggwa pledged MoFPED's commitment to transparency in all these processes, which will not only cushion the economy from the crisis but also aid full economic recovery.

2.3 Plenary session for the keynote address

- Why has the government not addressed directly any of the challenges the economy is facing especially the increasing commodity prices?
- The "how" element in the remedies is not pronounced in the Director of economic affairs remarks? How is the government going to shoulder commodity shortfalls? What exactly is the government planning to do?
- MoFPED established a committee to come up with interventions. What happened to the proposed solutions, especially on fuel prices?
- Does the Government have experts to find the real solutions to the real problems Ugandans are facing?

Responses from Mr. Kaggwa

Mr. Kaggwa highlighted that government intends to allow competition not disrupt forces of demand and supply emphasizing that a subsidy is not sustainable given the negative impact it would cause on the government budget and debt.

While answering the question on fuel prices, he said that Government is not going to fix the prices of petroleum products. Looking at the component of the fuel price index that is, a reduction of UGX 100 will have minimal benefits versus the cost to the government that will lead to approximately UGX 200bn loss in revenue.

2.4 Panel Discussion

National Planning Authority in mitigating Economic shocks in Uganda: Prof. Pamela Mbabazi Board Chairperson-National Planning Authority (NPA)

Prof. Mbabazi started by thanking ACODE for organizing the dialogue and for the invitation to participate and be part of the panel. She continued to add that among many responsibilities the constitution mandates her the responsibility of advising the presidency on policies and strategies for the development of the country but as well as liaising with the private sector and civil society in evaluating the government's performance.

Figure 5: Prof. Pamela Mbabazi- Board Chairperson, NPA

Prof. Pamela called for import substitution and export promotion to mitigate the economic shocks occasioned by crises that arise out of the dependence of our economy on goods and services produced out of our borders. Uganda has an import substitution and export promotion policy, which has been mainstreamed in other government policy documents. In addition is the buy Uganda build Uganda policy but also, she emphasized that NPA drafted an import substitution action plan that identifies and priorities the key strategic commodities whose domestic demand should be increased. The selection of these commodities was based on an analysis of Uganda's local industrial production capacities as well as the ease with which implementable strategic actions to boost domestic production can be taken to meet local regional and international demand.

In addition, to promote export services, the government seeks to increase the value and volume of manufactured food products, processed from agricultural commodities, as well as textiles, cement, steel soft drinks, and processed minerals and oil to enable the country to increase its capacity to enhance development.

Consequently, the proceeds from the sale of minerals and oil will be spent on the construction of infrastructure to further increase competitiveness as well as the importation of equipment to drive our industrialization process. The government has also adopted the Parish Development Model to ensure that not only does government expenditure increase local production of goods and services but also to make sure that the poor are lifted out of poverty as it will use a wealth ranking to select the beneficiaries. The government also realizes the challenge of increased production without the assurance of sustainable markets, in that regard efforts are focused on increasing market share in five key markets, particularly, the East African Community (EAC), the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACfTA), the Middle East, European Union, and China.

In conclusion, Prof. Mbabazi emphasized that the medium and long-term solution for mitigating the economic crisis lies in increasing the local production of goods and services for local consumption but also export. To this end, the government is implementing the PDM plus a raft of other policies and interventions aimed at increasing the attractiveness of Uganda as an investment destination. The government is also investing in health, education, and skilling to ensure that our economy is sufficiently healthy, competent, and has the required human resource. All these interventions are articulated in the NDP III and the different NPA strategic plans

The DRC's admission to the East African Community and its economic implications to Uganda and the community - Ms. Constance Kekihembo, Development Consultant

Ms. Kekihembo making her submission said that the topic given was interesting and emphasized that she will be linking it to inclusion specifically women and youth and rising commodity prices. She continued to say that it was exciting to see DRC join the EAC as it increases the community's bargaining power in terms of trade.

Figure 7: Ms. Constance Kekihembo- Development Consultant

She added that the joining of DRC to the EAC is also expected to create employment opportunities for many people and reduce the unemployment burden on the government. She continued to say that she sees an investment opportunity and coming from the women in trade background, there should be strategies geared towards encouraging women to harness the opportunities DRC presents.

In addition, on the issue of subsistence farming, Constance said that most vulnerable people especially women fall under this category. Whereas men are struggling to move on after the pandemic, women continue to put food on the table. However, this is the time for our government to start investing in the area of ensuring that vulnerable groups especially women and youth are included in the money economy by empowering and strengthening them to take advantage of existing opportunities as DRC joins the EAC. There is a need to create an enabling environment for the valuable groups to continue running their businesses, to shoulder some of the effects of the pandemic.

Ms. Constance talking about the impacts of high commodity prices said that commodities whose prices are soaring such as laundry soap and cooking oil are mostly provided and used by women in the household. She added that there is a need to support them in their small and medium-scale enterprises so that they are not pushed out of business. As we wait to harness the opportunities that DRC brings, there are mitigation steps that can be put in place to make sure that inclusion aspects are well taken care of as the country takes advantage of the African continental free trade area and the East African Community. The only question now remains, do we have the capacity to deliver, do we have commodities we can say that here Uganda has a competitive advantage? When we answer those questions then we shall be able to tell what each member country is contributing to the community and that is how we benefit.

In conclusion, Ms. Constance called on the government to address gender issues, especially the issue of gender-based violence and warned that if it is not managed, there is a chance that prostitution will increase as most families continue to split. She also said that cross-broader trade was being affected by sexual harassment resulting from border officials according to a study done by Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association. She added that this was a critical concern for women who are engaged in trade that needs to be addressed to facilitate cross-boarder trade in the EAC.

The Civil Society Perspective on Rising Commodity Prices Mr. Julius Mukunda- Executive Director CSBAG

Mr. Mukunda indicated that his focus will be on what government can do to cushion the soaring commodity prices and these included;

Increase production and consumption; He wondered why Uganda was importing commodities such as onions and Irish potatoes while districts like Kabale grows the best Irish potatoes in Uganda. He called on the National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO) to use their budget allocation to research and solve the issues of quality of commodities required by companies in Uganda, especially for commodities that can be produced locally. This will reduce imports and improve the country's Terms of Trade position.

On setting the right priorities! Mr. Mukunda reiterated the current commodity prices crisis and indicated that the country's way out is agriculture because that is where it has a competitive advantage. However, he expressed his concerns saying that agriculture is still underfunded and one can only wonder, where are we spending the money? He added. There is a need to look at how much is going to other sectors and explore options for increasing the agriculture budget.

In conclusion, Mr. Mukunda asked the Director of economic affairs - MoFPED to explain the status of Uganda's oil reserves because some people say that the country has no reserves while others say they exist but they are dry. Finally, he thanked the Bank of Uganda for stabilizing prices through stabilizing the exchange rate.

3.0 Questions from the Audience

Figure 7: Mr. Naggenda Musoke, Chairman – KACITA contributing to the discussion

- SMEs are the backbone of the economy and when prices increase continuously, they are hit the most. Businesses are being stretched we have high costs of transport, a high cost of inputs, a very vigilant URA staff expecting salary raises, and consumers not willing to pay more for the same kind of products, so we are stuck in a cul-de-sac.

In addition, like you have said Mr. Kaggwa, this inflation is driven primarily by external factors, much as there are no subsidies can the Government then create a token reduction in taxation?

- Much as education is becoming more expensive and parents still want to take their children to school, how can we help them, can the government think about Tax reduction? Why do Parents pay more tuition in a government-aided school than in private schools and we never see new structures or any forms of development at these schools?
- How is the Government making sure that the formulated interventions reach the common person?
- Where did the East African railway project and the construction of ports end? It would have been a solution to the ongoing increasing transport costs.
- What is the government doing to make sure that the small business recovery fund reaches its rightful beneficiaries?

3.1. Responses to the questions

While answering the question on the small business recovery fund, Mr. Kaggwa said that the money is housed in the bank of Uganda and is released to commercial banks to lend out when they have appraised these small businesses. He added that there are very strict and stringent requirements to make sure the funds reach the intended beneficiary.

About the East African Railway Project, the director of economic affairs said that Uganda is so far renovating the East Africa meter-gauge railway, which will move goods directly from Kenya to Kampala. In addition, Tororo and Gulu railway is under renovation as well as the Uganda - Mwanza railway since Tanzanian's Standard Gauge Railway stops in Mwanza. So to answer your question, Yes the reviving of the East African railway is underway said Mr. Kaggwa.

On the issue of Education, Mr. Kaggwa said that the government stopped aiding schools because basic food is not subject to taxes by the government and finally, on the national oil reserves, Mr. Kaggwa said that Uganda's fuel reserves located in Jinja have a capacity of 5 million liters of fuel, which can only last 6 days, hence, not a dependable remedy.

4.0 Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, Dr. Bainomugisha appreciated the participants for turning up in large numbers, and for their candid discussions. He also thanked all the partners of ACODE (MoFPED, CSBAG, NBS, and APC) for organizing the dialogue and the panelists for their hearty opinions.

He continued to emphasize that Agriculture is still relevant in these difficult times as a backbone and fallback position for the Economy. He added that indeed Uganda could develop through the Agricultural path because Uganda is endowed with good weather. He mentioned that the Democratic Republic of Congo DRC joining the East African Community is another great opportunity to embrace. Uganda needs to carry out an opportunities mapping to highlight what the economy is likely to benefit for instance Inga Dam in Congo produces about 10,000 megawatts of electricity and can pump industrialization in the region.

In conclusion, he called on the MOFPED and NPA to identify the benefits of this integration in addition to the admission of DRC into EAC. He also added that focused concerted efforts by member states are required to maintain Peace and Stability in the great lakes region for the common good. This will culminate in increased, investor confidence in DRC as a country but also in the region at large. Finally, he encouraged participants and partners to become a knowledge-based economy that carries out research to make research-based decisions and pledged ACODE's ideas as a think tank saying that once Civil society and Government continue to work together we can achieve more.

ABOUT ACODE

The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) is an independent public policy research and advocacy think tank based in Uganda. ACODE's work focuses on four programme areas: Economic Governance; Environment and Natural Resources Governance; Democracy, Peace and Security; Science, Technology and Innovation. For the last eight consecutive years, ACODE has been ranked as the best think tank in Uganda and one of the top 100 think tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa and globally in the Global Think Tanks Index Report published by the University of Pennsylvania Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP).

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