THE UGANDA NATIONAL NGO FORUM BROCHURE

The Uganda National NGO Forum is an independent, collective voice for civil society. It was established in 1997 to bring together National and International NGOs working in areas of Advocacy and Lobbying to effectively engage on public policies, so that they reflect the views and concerns of the poor.

MISSION

The mission of the Uganda National NGO Forum is: *"To be a platform for NGOs operating in Uganda, to contribute to public Policy dialogue through advocacy, networking, partnership development and information exchange.* NGOs are key civil society players.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the NGO Forum is to contribute to the development and implementation of public policies and plans so that they progressively reflect the views and concerns of the poor and meet their basic needs.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- A strong civil society collective voice and input in public policy.
- Organised and strong civil society institutions engaged and visible at all levels of policy-making for the benefit of the poor.
- An informed civil society, conversant with policy processes and legislative development.
- A vibrant democratic and Learning Forum.

STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

- To be responsive and demand driven, serving the needs of the poor through its members.
- Focus on Cross cutting Issues such as Poverty, Gender, HIV/AIDS
- Concentrate on areas of Comparative Advantage
- Creating Synergy,

CORE VALUES

The forum espouses the values of:

- Transparency
- Lateral and vertical accountability
- Professional and ethical integrity
- Gender sensitivity
- Mutual respect

BENEFITS TO MEMBERS

- An amplified voice and higher profile pro-poor issues.
- A forum for indigenous and international NGOs to meet and share experiences.
- Affiliated members can use the forum to further their objectives (with its consent.)
- Admission into the code of conduct for enhanced integrity.
- Access to research findings and data base.
- Capacity enhancement opportunities.
- A way to scale up local interventions/initiatives.

BENEFITS TO PARTNERS

- A source of alternative sound policies on emerging development issues.
- A source of constructive criticism and challenge.
- A central contact point.
- A mechanism for independent poverty monitoring.

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

The General Assembly is the supreme governance and policy body of the Forum. It is open to all members and meets once every two years.
The National Council is the second highest organ and meets twice every year. It comprises of representatives

of thematic groups, International NGOs, Networks and Umbrella Organisations as well as regional and district NGO Forum Chairpersons.
The National Executive Committee is elected by the National Council and provides oversight to the secretariat.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all regis-tered Civil Society Organisations and membership fees are sh.25, 000 per organisation. Annual sub-scriptions vary.
International Organisations pay sh. 250,000 p.a. These are NGOs with head offices outside Uganda but operating within Uganda and those locally registered but having International affiliation while operating in Uganda, such as the Red Cross.

Networks and umbrellas, NGOs having other registered NGOs as members; composed as registered associations, pay sh.150, 000 p.a.

National NGOs, those that are neither International nor umbrella and operating in more than one district, pay sh.50,000 p.a.

District based NGOs, whose operational outreach does not exceed one district, pay sh. 25,000 p.a.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Forum has a Code of Conduct to which its members are required to subscribe.This is supposed to encourage self regulation and promote integrity. A Code of Conduct Committee which is elected by the National Council monitors compliance.

RESOURCES

Human: The Forum maintains a small team of professional and support staff that works with its members,volunteers, and executive to realise its objectives.

Financial: It receives funds from membership fees, subscriptions and donations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ?

Become an active member and supporter and contribute ideas and articles for NGO Forum publications.

- Promote the objective and values of the Forum and contribute funds, time,and other forms of support.
- You can become a volunteer or an affiliate.

Membership is drawn from:
National and International NGOs; Community Based Organisations , District Fora and Thematic Groups in:

1. Human Rights
2. Environment and Natural Resources
3. Education/Training/Research
4. Agriculture
5. Appropriate Technology
6. Credit , Savings and income generating Activities
7. Intergrated Development
8. Health
9. Women
10. Children
11. Youth
12. Disabled
13. The Elderly
14. Faith Based Groups