



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**DURING THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING FOR THE EUROPEAN
CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST (ECAM)**

17TH FEBRUARY 2022

BRUSSELS

Check against delivery

Excellency's the Heads of State and Government,

H.E. Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety,

Mr. Valerio De Molli, CEO & Managing Partner of the European House-Ambrosetti,

Mr. Kamel Ghribi, Executive Chairman ECAM Council,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

1. I'd like to thank the ECAM Council and the European House Ambrosetti for inviting me to participate in this important conversation on how Africa and Europe can work together with the private sector on investment in healthcare systems on the continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated the world's attention, and in Africa there have been more than 10.5 million infections and sadly, estimated 245,000 people have lost their lives.
3. In the case of Uganda, which has a long history and experience in dealing with such major disease outbreaks including Ebola, we have achieved relative success in limiting transmission and fatalities. To-date, Uganda has registered 162,865 confirmed

cases of COVID-19 and 3,577 deaths. Over 15million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. The vaccination campaign is being accelerated countrywide to increase coverage. Uganda appreciates the assistance of our international partners including the EU and some of the individual member states have provided in supporting African countries in responding to the pandemic.

4. Despite accounting for nearly 18% of the world's population, Africa has only received 1.6% of the global share of vaccine doses. With the help of the African Union and other partners, most African countries have fast tracked the acquisition of sufficient doses of vaccines to cover their populations. Today, thanks to these efforts 11% of the population has been fully vaccinated, and another 16% has been partially vaccinated. Our focus, should be on increasing the continent's vaccination figures from the current 11% to 60% by the end of 2022.
5. The lack of equal access to the COVID-19 vaccines was a good lesson for Africa, which has now realized the need to build local capacity to develop and manufacture vaccines including fast tracking research and development of therapeutics and diagnostics. What we also seek from our partners is for pathogens to support our endeavors.
6. Uganda is progressing well in the search for a COVID-19 vaccine, which we are developing with our own human resources and funding. We support the establishment of the partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing, to steer the development of a

resilient and robust vaccine manufacturing ecosystem with the goal of increasing African manufacturing from the current 1% to at least 60% by 2040. We support the establishment of the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing, to steer the development of a resilient and robust vaccine manufacturing ecosystem with the goal of increasing African manufacturing from the current 1% to at least 60 % by 2040.

Distinguished Guests,

7. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us a few lessons. **Firstly**, it shows how interconnected and interdependent our world has become. **Secondly**, strategic interventions by our individual countries are central to addressing public health pandemics and governments should work with the private sector, which is a key partner. **Thirdly**, we must embrace the digital age and more digital technologies in providing public services such as healthcare. **Fourthly**, enhancing trade and investment is an important way of responding to the pandemic for strong economic recovery and ensuring sustainable growth.
8. Africa, with its population of 1.2 billion, is home to approximately 375 pharmaceutical manufacturers. Only 06 local sub Saharan manufacturers have achieved WHO prequalification status. Africa- based manufacturers can meet less than 2% of demand for medicines and 1% of that for vaccines on the continent. I therefore believe working with the private sector, we can improve our cooperation to build Africa's healthcare system centered on three priority areas namely;

1. Building Africa's quality healthcare infrastructure, such as Intensive Care Units (ICU's)
2. Building Africa's pharmaceutical industry;
3. Building Africa's vaccine manufacturing capacity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Uganda looks forward to continued and stronger cooperation with public and private partners to develop capacity of health infrastructure and realize better health in Africa and all around the world.

I thank you for your attention.