



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**BY**

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER, AND CULTURE  
AFFAIRS**

**DURING MEDIA CONFERENCE**

**DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF WORLD CULTURE DAY 2024**

**VENUE: MEDIA CENTRE, KAMPALA**

**DATE: 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 2024**

➤ The Executive Director Uganda Media Centre

- The Media
- Ladies And Gentlemen
- Culture Enthusiasts, and all Ugandans.
  1. I bring you greetings from the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, the custodians of Uganda’s rich cultural Heritage.
  2. Uganda Today joins the rest of the world to commemorate the **World Day for Cultural Diversity for dialogue and Development** commonly known as **World Culture Day**. The Day of 21<sup>st</sup> May was declared by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) under the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution No 51/249.
  3. Uganda has since 1999 been joining the World to commemorate the day. We are once again happy to join in the commemoration of World Culture Day 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 under the theme: **"Digital transformation of the culture and creative industries: Packaging Art and Culture as a national public good"**.
  4. This theme has been selected to emphasize the need to modernize legal structures to support the digital transformation of the creative industries, while ensuring that art and culture remain accessible and beneficial to all members of society. It requires a thoughtful approach that balances creators' rights with public access and supports the preservation and celebration of cultural heritage.
  5. The theme is in line with Conference of Ministers of Culture held in Mondiacult, September 2022 in Mexico in which 150 States declared for the first time that culture is a “global public good”. Consequently, States made a call for culture to be included “as a specific objective in its own right” among the next United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

6. As Culture becomes a public Good, there is need for substantial regulation of the digital sector, notably of the major platforms, for the benefit of online cultural diversity, artists' intellectual property rights and fair access to content for all.
7. Ladies and gentlemen, the commemoration of the National event is taking place at the National Theatre in Kampala and other venues across the Country in the decentralized arrangement.
8. The purpose of this day is to create awareness among the public on the importance of culture in development, deepen understanding of the norms, values of Cultural Diversity and appreciate Uganda's heritages. It provides a platform for Governments, organizations and individuals or groups of cultural practitioners to share and celebrate the Ugandan rich and diverse cultural heritages. The day is further intended to review progress, identify challenges and map out strategies for overcoming them.
9. Uganda's Constitution Article 37 provides that: every person has a right as applicable to belong to, enjoy, practice, profess, maintain and promote any culture. Uganda is also member of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
10. The key objective is to mobilize the public and raise awareness of the importance of culture and the need to strengthen the sector for socio-economic transformation
11. The day provides an opportunity to deepen understanding of cultural diversity's values and advances the four goals of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression adopted on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2005, these include:
  - i. Support sustainable systems of governance for culture;

- ii. Achieve a balanced flow of cultural goods and services and increase the mobility of artists and cultural professionals;
  - iii. Integrate culture in sustainable development frameworks; and;
  - iv. Promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.
12. The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the Uganda National Cultural Centre and stakeholders, recognize the role of culture in the lives of people and in the nation's development. This is realized through achievements in terms of cultural development in the form of recent policy initiatives, including;
- i. The Review of Uganda's National Culture Policy (2006) and the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act(2006),
  - ii. The reporting of Uganda's implementation of the UNESCO Conventions.
  - iii. The integration of Culture in the National Development Plan III and ongoing (NDP IV.) among others.

The above achievements so far attained call for commemoration of World Culture Day.

### **Activities**

13. A number of activities have been organised, to celebrate World Culture Day, these include interactive sessions between cultural practitioners, artists, and the public for a deeper understanding and appreciation of cultural and creative practices: These interactions, will be both physical through media digital and print.
14. In line with the theme, each Local Government is expected to organise events to observe World Culture Day. The Local Governments are expected to send a report to the Ministry on

the observation of the day, highlighting the achievements and challenges faced and to suggest better ways of organizing the day.

15. The Government is committed to strengthening the culture and creative industry, through the development of new policies and legal frameworks, the re-structuring of the culture and creative industry, the building of capacity of stakeholders and improving the status of artists in Uganda.

16. The Ministry is partnering with, the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO, Uganda National Cultural Centre, Pearlwood, Cross Cultural Foundation of Uganda, Corporate bodies, and Private sector organizations such as Media Houses to commemorate the day.

I wish you a well-commemorated World Culture Day 2024  
For God and My Country

MUTUUZO PEACE REGIS

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER AND CULTURE AFFAIRS**