



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**REMARKS BY HON. JOHN MULIMBA, MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CHARGE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AT THE 1ST COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT**

**Excellency Adrien Bokele Djema, Minister of Fisheries and
Livestock,**

**Hon. Hellen Adoa, Minister of State for Fisheries - MAAIF Uganda
The Chief of Staff of Fisheries, Mr. Alain Mahunina**

Permanent Secretaries,

The Technical team,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government and People of Uganda and on my own behalf, I welcome Excellency Adrien Bokele Djema, Minister of Fisheries and Livestock and the entire delegation from the Democratic Republic of Congo. **Bienvenue.**

Ladies and gentlemen, I take this opportunity to welcome you all to this inaugural session of the Council of Ministers meeting on the implementation of the Bilateral Fisheries Agreement between the Republic of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

I wish to extend my great appreciation to the Technical team and the Permanent Secretaries for the work already done in coming up with the necessary steps towards the implementation of the BFA between our two countries. I also wish to commend the spirit of brotherhood that has guided the engagements as evidenced by the 100 per cent agreement reached on the issues discussed.

Colleague Ministers, I must congratulate the Permanent Secretaries and senior officials for agreeing to take the crucial step of establishing the Lakes Edward and Albert Fisheries and Aquaculture organization, (LEA-FAO) the Fisheries Organization that is going to handle the day to day implementation of the BFA.

The confidence that has been entrusted to Uganda by our brothers and sisters of the Democratic Republic of Congo in accepting our offer to host the Headquarters of the Organization is highly appreciated.

Uganda's commitment to pursuing all efforts aimed at sustainable use of the fisheries resources and aquaculture on the Lakes Albert and Edward cannot be over emphasized. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development approved the proposed annual budget for the organization and issued a Certificate of No Objection in 2018 at the time of signing the BFA.

The implementation of the BFA will therefore enhance the already existing measures towards ensuring mutual benefits from the two Lakes and their basin. The proper management of the resource will not only benefit the fishing communities whose livelihoods depend on the Lakes but will also contribute to the socio-economic development of the two countries as a whole.

It should be recalled that the BFA is only one aspect of the decisions of the last Session of the JPC between Uganda and DRC held in 2018, in Kampala. It is therefore gratifying to see that this decision of the

JPC is being implemented during this Council of Ministers' meeting as a major outcome.

I should point out that through the JPC, which is the framework that provides for engagements and decision making on all issues of mutual interest to both our countries, relations between our countries will continue to be handled in a holistic manner.

Uganda is prepared to participate in the next session of the Uganda-DRC JPC in early August 2022 in order to review the progress reached in the implementation of the decisions of the 7th JPC and identify new areas of cooperation.

Colleagues, and all our visitors from DRC,

I welcome you and hope you will find time and visit Kampala and its environs to enjoy the touristic aspects and the warm hospitality, rich and diverse cultures and cuisine of Uganda.

I wish you fruitful deliberations on the report of the Executive Committee.

I Thank you.