



STATEMENT

BY

**HON SAM CHEPTORIS
MINISTER FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA-4)**

10 MARCH 2019, NAIROBI, KENYA

H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler, President of UNEA-4
Excellencies,
Acting Executive Director,
Distinguished Delegates in your various capacities,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President,

I thank you for the efforts that you have put in place in organizing this Assembly. I thank the Government of Kenya for hosting UNEA.

Mr. President,

The theme for this conference **“Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production”** should stimulate dialogue on how nations of the world can harness their knowledge, technologies and promote behavioral change in reducing pressure on mother earth in respect to available resources and enhancing its carrying capacity.

Excellencies, in my country Uganda, we are taking all measures to fulfil our constitutional obligations on the right to a *clean and healthy* environment through deliberate strategic interventions.

Recently, our President, H.E. Y.K. Museveni, accented to a new National Environment Act to respond to emerging issues of resource efficiency, extended producer responsibility and liability; recycling and re-use, anti-littering, chemicals management, petroleum waste management, electronic waste management, payment for ecosystems services, among others. All these provisions are relevant to the theme of this Assembly. A raft of appropriate regulations shall also shortly be rolled.

In addition, my Government has been closely promoting the adoption of cleaner production methods in industrial establishments. The results have been tremendous for both industry and the environment. For instance; each of the two old cement factories saved over 22,000MT per annum of

cement that would have been emitted as dust into the air with disastrous effects to the local communities.

Sugar companies have invested in new technologies and installed new effluent treatment plants through which waste is converted into energy and the effluent used for irrigation. Similar actions have been adopted by breweries.

Mr. President

At a global level, Uganda is one the countries implementing the **Switch Africa Green** project which is responding to SDG 12. Many participating Small and medium enterprises have introduced innovative solutions in production and resource use efficiency techniques. Two of these enterprises are already selling their products in the international markets.

Other innovations in environment management are being tried and are yielding good results in the areas of forestry and wetlands through a refund scheme; payment for ecosystem functions and export promotion of derived products. The latter is what we have done as part of implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in the conservation of the *shea butter* tree that is threatened by illegal charcoal burning. The cold press shea butter prices increased to USD11.5 per litre up from \$0.85. This is a very good incentive for conservation.

Mr. President

As I conclude, I want to assure this Assembly of my country's readiness to join other nations in finding global, regional, national and local innovative solutions to address environmental challenges. We must create sustainable conditions today on mother earth so that tomorrow's generation can live a quality life.

I thank you for your kind attention.

For GOD and MY COUNTRY