Weekly Edition

Vol: 401 22nd-26th August 2022

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEBT REMEDY FOR LICs MUST BE SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE SDGs

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the last couple of weeks, the voice concerned about the looming unsustainable debt situation as a hindrance to COVID-19 and post COVID-19 economic recovery and social protection for global citizens was loud.

This was through the African Conference on Debt and Development II (AfCoDD II) 2022 development policy and financing discourse spearheaded by AFRODAD and partners like Ugandan Debt Network in the case of Eastern Africa.

Click on Link for proceedings of the AfCoDD II conference https://youtu.be/qZwIeG45fH8

2. AFRICA'S INDEBTEDNESS SITUATION

Already by June 2022, while 39 countries globally were struggling with debt-heavy weight in consideration of their fiscal choices and revenue opportunities forgone, 34 were in Sub-Saharan Africa's category of Low-Income and lower Middle-Income Countries.

Without limiting the assessment to merely Disbursed and Outstanding Debt (DOD) scene, the numbers for such indebtedness nations would be even higher: if recoverable debt, domestic arrears and contingent liabilities and others were factored in.

Accordingly, the stated 34 countries as per World Bank and IMF conclusion are randomly the following: Ghana, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Cameroon. Others are Central African Republic, Burundi, Comoros, DR Congo and Republic of Congo.

There's also Cote Devoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar and Malawi. List also includes Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Zambia and then Uganda.

The current and outlook sovereign debt stock of such countries has been worsened by global inflation, wars and under-production, plus global depreciation of country currencies against major global currencies like the Yen (Japan), Yuan (China), Dollar (U.S), Rubi (Russia), Euro and others for which debt is acquired. So, as forums such as UN and G.20 Finance Ministers' July 2022 Meeting in Bali (Indonesia) simply wine and dine, yet not offer much to reverse unsustainable debt and adequate responsive measures to Global Economic crises, Africa must continue soul-searching on how not to drown into debt.

3. CONCLUSION

With just 8 years to ending the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, the global south's LICs and lower MICs, must keep the unsustainable debt predicament debate more alive, especially to vouch for economic recovery that delivers climate change and gender-responsive measures, climate for equitably sustainable debt and development solutions, as highlighted strongly during the (AfCoDD II).

AFCODD II CONFERENCE IN PICTURES

Above: Hon. Fred Omach Jachan (UDN Board Chairman) giving a key note address during the AfCoDD II conference at Hotel Africana on 18th August 2022.

L-R; Dr.Madina Guloba (Senior Research Fellow-EPRC) Dr Arthur Bainomugisha (ED,ACODE), and Mr Denis Mugaga (Economist, MoFPED) constituted the panel discussion on climate financing and debt .

L-R; Ms. Jane Nalunga (ED,SEATINI), Mr. Peter Wandera (ED, TIU), and Former MP Bulisa, Hon Steven Mukitale constituted the panel discussion on Transparency and accountability for public debt .

Some of the participants sharing a light moment during the AfCoDD II conference.

UDN appreciates support by: UDN Membership; DCA; Save the Children in Uganda, UNICEF, OSIEA, IBP, Inspectorate of Government, TDDAP, and NDI among others.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Gilbert Musinguzi - gmusinguzi@udn.or.ug; Priscilla Naisanga- communications@udn.or.ug

Please visit/ talk to us at; Uganda Debt Nework ,
P.O. Box 21509, Kampala -Uganda,
Plot 153/155 Ntinda—Nakawa Road , Tel +256-414-533840/ 543974
Website: www.udn.or.ug