

Statement by Jeroen Verheul, Ambassador of Kingdom of the Netherlands,
Chair JLOS DPG, at the Closing Session of the
16th Joint GoU – DP Justice, Law and Order Sector Annual Review
September 29th 2011, Kampala

Your Lordship the Honourable Chief Justice,
Honourable Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
Honourable Attorney General,
Honourable Minister of Internal Affairs,
Honourable Ministers of State,
Heads of JLOS institutions and their representatives,
Fellow development partners,
Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me be brief, after this long day of deliberations and sometimes heated discussion. Progress in the JLOS has been assessed, and we have concluded that especially if you look back to where the Sector was five years ago, a lot has been achieved. We also established the areas where there is still room for progress. I think sector and development partners have agreed on the following leading principles: the sector will continue to focus on access to justice, on an inclusive approach to transitional justice, and on accountability and respect for human rights – and we have established that rights come with obligations.

Furthermore, there is agreement on the need to implement the Judicature Amendment Act, in order to increase the number of judges; on the need to prioritise appointments of members of important institutions, such as the commissioners of the Judicial Service Commission. I was pleased to hear that before the end of next week, a list of candidates will be forwarded to parliament. On the need to prioritise the adoption of the legal aid policy; the establishment of specialised land courts, as land divisions in all high court circuits, and through electing, equipping, training and monitoring the Local Council Courts; On the need of speedy consultations and adoption of a Public Order Management policy and bill, based on the UHRC principles. And finally, on the three undertakings, 1. The implementation of a performance based management system in the Judiciary, 2. the development of a data management system, to record all the cases that enter the JLOS, 3. To strengthen quality assurance of JLOS services through the strengthening of the JLOS inspectorate systems.

From the development partners side, I can say that though discussions with our constituencies back home are sometimes heated, we see sufficient progress in the sector to stay committed to the JLOS. So you can count on our support. On behalf of the JLSO DPG, I wish to thank you for a very productive day, and I look forward to seeing you again, in the different for a, but always in the spirit of mutual partnership.

Thank you.

