

TO: The Directorate of Budget
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.
COMMUNIQUE ON UGANDA'S NATIONAL BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027.

Investing in Women, Renewable Energy, Climate Action and Agroecology for Just and Sustainable Uganda.

Issued by Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda (WoGEM Uganda)

Introduction

Women for green economy movement Uganda (WoGEM U) welcomes the presentation of Uganda's National Budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 and commends the Government's commitment to advancing socio-economic transformation. As an organization dedicated to promoting women's economic empowerment, climate justice, Just Energy Transition and sustainable development, we recognize the national budget as one of the most important policy instruments for shaping Uganda's development trajectory.

A national budget should not merely finance economic growth; it should invest in people, protect the environment, reduce inequalities and build resilience against the growing impacts of climate change. At a time when Uganda continues to experience prolonged droughts, floods, biodiversity loss, food insecurity and increasing energy poverty, public investment must deliberately prioritize climate-resilient and gender responsive development.

Our assessment

May 2026, WoGEM Uganda carried out a community engagement to discuss the priority in achieving the National Development Plan (NDP4), Vision 2040 and sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We acknowledge Government's continued investment in infrastructure, agriculture, industrialization and economic growth. These investments have the potential to accelerate development and improve livelihoods. However, we remain concerned that financing for renewable energy, climate adaptation, agro-ecology and gender -responsive programming remains insufficient to address the scale of Uganda's environmental and socio-economic challenges.

For Uganda to achieve sustainable and inclusive development, the national budget must place women and girls at the center of economic transformation while safeguarding the natural resources upon which communities depend.

1. Increase investment in Decentralized Renewable Energy Projects.

Access to affordable, clean, and reliable energy remains a prerequisite for economic development, improved health, education and environmental protection. Yet millions of Ugandans, particularly women and rural communities, continue to rely on firewood, charcoal for cooking, contributing to deforestation, indoor air pollution and adverse health outcomes.

Therefore, WoGEM Uganda calls for increased public investment in renewable energy projects, including solar, mini-grids, biogas, clean cooking technologies and other decentralized energy solutions. Such investments will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create green jobs, lower household energy costs, improve public health and expand economic opportunities for women and youth.

A just energy transition requires deliberate financing that enables women entrepreneurs, cooperatives and local communities to participate meaningfully in Uganda's growing green economy.



2. Strengthen Climate Action through Adequate Budgetary Allocation

Climate change is no longer a future threat; it is a present reality affecting livelihoods, food production, water resources, biodiversity and public health a cross Uganda. Women, smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities continue to bear the greatest burden despite contributing the least to global greenhouse gas emissions.

WoGEM Uganda urges Government to substantially increase investment in climate adaption, disaster risk reduction, ecosystem restoration, water resource management, afforestation and community resilience programs. Climate finance should not be treated as an environmental expense but as a strategic investment in Uganda's long-term economic stability and sustainable development.

The national budget should also strengthen financing for local governments to implement locally led climate adaption initiatives that respond to community priorities.

3. Prioritize Agro-ecology for Food Security and Climate Resilience

Agriculture remains the backbone of Uganda's economy and the primary source of livelihood for millions of households. However, climate change, soil degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable farming practices continue to threaten agricultural productivity.

WoGEM Uganda calls for increased investment in agro-ecology as a sustainable pathway to achieving food security, environmental conservation and resilient livelihoods. An agro-ecological approaches promote healthy soils, biodiversity conservation, reduced dependence on harmful agrochemicals, efficient water management and climate resilient farming systems.

Women farmers, who constitute the majority of Uganda's agricultural workforce, require increased access to extension services, climate information, affordable credit, quality inputs, land rights and sustainable markets. Investing in agro-ecology is investing in healthier communities, resilient food systems and long -term economic prosperity.

4. Strengthen Gender -Responsive Budgeting

A truly inclusive national budget must recognize the different needs, priorities and challenges faced by women, men, girls and boys. Gender -responsive budgeting ensures that public resources address inequalities and expand opportunities for all citizens.

WoGEM Uganda notes that while Uganda has made commendable policy commitments towards gender equality, these commitments must be matched by adequate financing and effective implementation.

We therefore call upon Government to increase budget allocations for programs that promote women's economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, leadership, financial inclusion, climate resilience, land ownership, education and participation in renewable energy and green enterprise development.

Investing in women is not only a matter of social justice- it is a proven strategy for accelerating economic growth, strengthening communities and achieving sustainable development.

Recommendations

WoGEM Uganda respectfully calls upon the Government of Uganda, parliament, development partners, local governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to;

- Increase investment in renewable energy infrastructure, clean cooking technologies and decentralized energy systems that reach underserved communities.
- Allocate greater financial resources to climate adaptation, ecosystem restoration, disaster preparedness and locally led climate resilience initiatives.
- Mainstream agro-ecology within national agricultural programs and strengthen support for smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth.
- Institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting across all ministries, departments and agencies to ensure equitable allocation and utilization of public resources.
- Expand financing for women-led green enterprises, climate -smart businesses and renewable energy innovations and strengthen transparency, accountability and citizen participation throughout budget implementation to ensure public resources deliver measurable and equitable development outcomes.

Conclusion

Uganda stands at a pivotal moment in its development journey. The choices made today through public investment will determine the resilience of our communities, the health of our ecosystems and the prosperity future generations.

Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda believes that sustainable development cannot be achieved without deliberate investment in renewable energy, climate action, agro-ecology and gender equality. These are not competing priorities but they are mutually reinforcing pillars of resilient, inclusive and green economy.

We therefore call upon all stakeholders to ensure that the implementation of the 2026/2027 National Budget reflects Uganda's commitment to climate justice, women's empowerment, environmental sustainability and inclusive economic transformation.

A green economy is not only an environmental imperative-it is an economic opportunity. By investing in women, renewable energy, climate resilience and agro-ecology today, Uganda can build a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable future for all.

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