



## Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) – 2022

### Concept note

## The UWEWK 2022 Regional Youth Debate Tournament

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition on; “Water and Climate Change”

#### Theme:

*“Water conservation; a necessity of the present to secure the Future”*

14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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## **Background**

The Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2022 is the 5th event organized by the Ministry of Water and Environment through the Water Resources Institute (WRI), starting Sunday 20th March to Friday 25th March 2022. The week-long event will involve the annual commemoration of three important International Days: World Forest Day (March 21st), World Water Day (March 22nd), and World Meteorological Day (March 23rd) on 22nd March 2022. The UWEWK 2022 is intrinsically linked to NPDIII and SDGs which focus on enhancing value addition in key growth opportunities; ensuring availability of adequate and reliable quality freshwater resources for all uses, reducing human and economic loss from natural hazards and disasters, increasing incomes and employment through sustainable use and value addition to water, environment and other natural resources.

The Ministry of Water and Environment has been working closely with the youth through their umbrella organization the Youth Go Green. Both institutions have a formal partnership that seeks to bring on board the young people to effectively contribute to climate change-related planning & management as well as strengthen the participation of youth in environmental sustainability programs. The partnership provides a variety of opportunities to facilitate youth involvement in addressing pressing environmental issues in the country.

During UWEWK, Youth Go Green with support from the Ministry and other partners organizes youth-led activities such as dialogues, field visits, youth competitions, games, youth debates, tree-planting drives, clean-ups, waste management, recycling training, and other restoration activities.

In Uganda, the population is dominated by young people with over 78% below the age of 30. Youth cut across all sectors of society as a standing multi-stakeholder engagement. While there are many youth-led initiatives in the country, structured and meaningful involvement of youth is generally vulnerable due to various reasons that range from lack of widespread support to the absence of proper platforms that sustain youth participation. UWEWK, therefore, provides a good platform for Youth to get their voices heard and their needs and demands met. This will also help them to shift their mindset and contribute to sustainable water and environment resources management.

## **UWEWK 2022 Youth activities;**

The Annual National Youth Debate Championships is part of the UWEWK 2022 activities. This Youth debate tournament was officially launched by the Minister of Water and Environment as an annual event that will be part of the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) activities. The event is meant to promote youth involvement in climate change, water, and environmental resources management by providing a platform for youth to discuss, debate, and advocate for better environmental protection.

## **Justification**

This year's 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the National Youth Debate tournament will focus on **water and climate change**. In Uganda, water-related impacts of climate change are being experienced in the form of more severe and more frequent droughts and floods. Higher average temperatures and changes in precipitation and temperature extremes are projected to affect the availability of water resources

through changes in rainfall distribution, soil moisture, river and groundwater flows among others. These factors are also expected to lead to further deterioration of water quality. A new report by UNICEF & WHO indicates that 1 in 3 people globally do not have access to safe drinking water and more than 4,000 children die every day from infectious diseases, resulting from a shortage of safe drinking water and unsanitary conditions. Therefore, young people will meet to debate, exchange ideas, and take action on specific issues related to climate change, water, and environmental resources.

### **Expected Outcomes**

The debate will provide recommendations from the speakers which will be used as input to the 5th Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK 2022) report. In addition, the information generated during the debate will be used in forming policy briefs and communication materials relating to water, climate change, and the environment.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the debate is to mobilize youth for water and environmental governance and protection. This will help to create a critical mass of young people committed to valuing water and environmental resources. Youth must be encouraged to undertake research on water and climate change issues. Young people need to be empowered with information, debate skills in order to strengthen their resilience and ensure they are included in the natural resource governance.

### **Objectives of the Debate;**

1. To mobilize and create a critical mass of youth for water and environment resources management and protection.
2. To amplify the youth's voice and advocate for the protection of the country's water resources.
3. To effectively contribute to water security in the country.
4. To build the resilience of youth in water resource governance.
5. To raise awareness about the Uganda Water and Environment Week among young people.

### **Methodology:**

After the first National Youth Debate, among the outcomes was the need to further develop and roll out the program to other regions of the country. This meant that there shall be regional youth debate tournaments organized for each region in Uganda. The Annual National Youth Debate Tournament will commence with local regional inter-university and school debate activities for the selection of the finalists to participate in the final National Youth Debate competition in Kampala during the UWEWK. At least a delegation of Forty (40) youth and school students from the four (4) regions of Uganda will be considered for participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Youth Debate Tournament in Kampala. Other participants will come from Universities, and Schools based in Kampala, Youth-led organizations, the National Youth Council, Youth Members of Parliament, Private sector, Youth CSOs, and the Media. Partner organizations will offer technical guidance and supervision of such events to ensure unbiased and quality outcomes, resource mobilization, and government support.

The Debate program will use the *World School Debating System* which is a structured debating system that follows a specific format known and used worldwide in school debating competitions. Using this format, the focus is given to two types of debate motions;

1. **Policy Debate Motions** – this refers to motions drawn from policies formulated by Government which gives debaters an opportunity to engage in understanding, critiquing, and analyzing motions passed by the government. It allows debaters to engage their research skills

and understating levels of complex policy matters and give feedback on what they think about the same.

2. **Analytical Debate Motions** – this refers to motions drawn from real-life situations that need to be analyzed by debaters to determine their effect, strength, weaknesses, or competencies. It provides a unique opportunity for debaters to engage their analytical skills and critique skills in their debating experiences.

In this system, a team of three debaters usually has each debater with specific responsibility and time of speaking having 5 minutes for every speech. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Youth Debate, the debate format will have six (6) rounds where debaters will be paired up randomly in the first round to debate for 45 minutes. There will be a judge's sheet where each debater will be awarded individual marks that will cumulatively give the marks for the whole team. For the second round, the teams will be reshuffled using a computer application to find the new pairs of debating teams that debate for another 45 minutes. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, the winners will be paired against the losers to find those that will proceed to the next level. In this 3<sup>rd</sup> round (also called the quarter-finals), the top 8 teams will be selected and paired using the computer application to debate for 45 minutes. From this round, the top 4 teams will be selected to proceed to round five (5) also called the Semi Finals from which the top two (2) will proceed to round six (6), also called the Finals.

**This debate format has provisions for awarding the best performers in two categories;**

- I. **Best Speakers:** the top 25 speakers drawn from Rounds 1 to 3 only, will be awarded certificates and other selected awards. This ensures that all debaters stand a chance for being considered for awards even if they do not proceed to other levels of debating.
- II. **Winning Teams:** the top three (3) teams will be awarded certificates, a cash prize of UGX 1,000,000 (One Million shillings only), and trophies.

**Debate theme and topic;**

The topics of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Youth Debate tournament are based on the UWEWK 2022 overall theme; **“Water and environment for peace and socio-economic transformation of Uganda”** but the debate will focus on Water and Climate Change. The theme for the debate is; **“Water conservation; a necessity of the present to secure the Future”**

**Debate question;** **“Water scarcity; Is it Climate Change or bad Water governance?”**. The final Debate will take place on **Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the Ministry of Water & Environment starting at 8:00 am – 01:30 pm**. The local-regional Youth debates will take place from **14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022** from the respective regions at identified venues. Other participants will participate online via ZOOM and follow through the social media hashtags such as Twitter and Facebook.

**Judges**

It is envisaged that the panel of judges and other facilitators will be drawn from renowned debating intuitions to avoid biased results and also ensure quality. The debate will have an external interaction on Youth Go Green and UWEWK social media platforms to allow continuity in participation.

**Expected Results**

1. A well-defined role of youth's participation in the Uganda Water and Environment Week and their contribution towards the management of water and environment resources recognized.
2. A collection of youth's knowledge and suggestions upon which policy and priorities for sustainable water and environmental resources management can be based.

## Outcomes

Presentations and submissions during the debate sessions and other materials shall be compiled and published into a **magazine** and on the partners' websites and social media platforms as well as an extended ongoing discussion will be maintained online and among the youth and students.

## Financing

### Activity costs

Costs for the competition will fall into three areas; management, Events, and Promotion

- **Management** – this will be the primary financial and a central management team comprising of Chairperson – UWEWK Technical Committee, Team leader – Youth Go Green and the sponsors of the event to manage and oversee both the local-regional debate activities as well as fundraising for the debate operations.
- **Event Costs** – this will include; coordination, event planning, and training, event hire, per diem to facilitators, travels and accommodation, feeding and subsistence expenses of the coordinators both at the region and national level.
- **Promotion** – costs will include content development, planning, website, and social media, media liaison, design and print of promotional materials, distribution, advertising, and evaluation.

## SWOT ANALYSIS

### Strengths

- Strong youth and schools' participatory desire.
- Many youth and students willing to volunteer throughout the debate activities
- Other stakeholders, partners, CSOs keen to participate in the debate events.
- Unmatched desire by youth to participate in the management and sustainability of water and environment resources.
- A wealth of research and debating talents by the youth.
- Strong lead organization (Youth Go Green) and steering organizing committee.
- Government support especially the Ministry of Water and Environment particularly the UWEWK Technical committee.

### Weakness

- Remote location and spread of schools and the youth participants.
- Lack of an already established source of funds.

### Opportunities

- Debate is an attractive intellectual and development competition
- Government embracing the initiative (National Youth Debate championships) to be part of the annual Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) activities.
- Programming or planning from February to March (2months) will assure ample time for marketing and effective organization and coordination of the event activities.

### Threats

- Lack of sufficient funding to run both the regional and national debate activities.
- High required expenses for media publicity.
- National Youth debate events may be complex to coordinate.

