

INTERPRETATIVE DECLARATION/ RESERVATIONS

BY THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**ON THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND ITS MEMBER STATES, OF THE ONE PART, AND THE MEMBERS OF
THE ORGANISATION OF THE AFRICAN, CARRIBEAN AND PACIFIC
STATES, OF THE OTHER PART (SAMOA AGREEMENT)**



Part I (General Provisions)

The Republic of Uganda states that its ratification of the Agreement shall not be interpreted as accepting any obligation that contradicts or supersedes the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

The Republic of Uganda declares that the Samoa Agreement will be interpreted and implemented by Uganda in a manner consistent with its Constitution, legal and policy frameworks. The implementation of its obligations, under this Agreement, shall be subject to the availability of resources and alignment with Uganda's national development priorities and domestic legal order.

The Republic of Uganda recognizes that the Agreement includes some terms which do not have a universally agreed definition, or whose usage is not agreed as amongst the Parties hereto. The Republic of Uganda therefore understands that the Samoa Agreement will be interpreted and implemented by Uganda in a manner consistent with its domestic legal and policy frameworks.

The Republic of Uganda declares that Article 6 shall be interpreted and applied in a manner that respects, and does not supersede, the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. No provision of the Samoa Agreement shall be construed as creating an obligation for Uganda to enact legislation or adopt policies that contravene the fundamental principles and specific provisions enshrined in its Constitution.

Article 9 (Human rights, Democracy and the Rule of law)

Uganda affirms her commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights as provided for in her Constitution and existing international instruments that Uganda is party to. Uganda declares that her interpretation of the terms

"human rights," "fundamental freedoms," "non-discrimination," and "any other status" shall be guided by the Constitution and national laws.

Article 10 (Gender Equality)

It is the understanding of the Republic of Uganda that any reference to the phrase "gender and gender equality" and "other status" will be interpreted in accordance with its Constitution, laws and policies.

Article 11 (Inclusive and Pluralistic Societies)

The Republic of Uganda states that this Article will be interpreted and implemented by Uganda in a manner consistent with its domestic legal and policy frameworks.

Article 32 (Social Cohesion and Protection)

The Republic of Uganda declares that its policies on social development are designed for the benefit of all its citizens. The principles of "social inclusiveness" and "leaving no one behind," particularly for persons in "disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable situations," shall be implemented in accordance with its legal and policy frameworks.

Article 36 (Gender equality and women and girls' empowerment)

The Republic of Uganda supports efforts aimed at gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and will continue to implement the outcome of the reviews of the Beijing Declaration as well as participate in the process of the Platform for Action and Programme of Action of the International Conference on population and Development to the extent that permitted by the Constitution and relevant legislation of the Republic of Uganda

The Republic of Uganda recognizes that the Samoa Agreement includes some terms which do not have a universally agreed definition as amongst the Parties hereto. As such, Uganda understands that references to "sexual and reproductive health and rights" do not include a reference to abortion other than where the termination of a pregnancy is in accordance with its laws.

Article 79 (Cooperation in international organizations and forums)

The Republic of Uganda understands that the Agreement does not create an obligation for the Parties to have common positions and promotes dialogue through consultation to facilitate adoption of common positions at global stage.

Article 80 (Areas of International Cooperation)

It is the understanding of the Republic of Uganda that the Agreement does not create an obligation for the Parties to undertake joint actions on issues related to the strategic priorities, but rather those joint actions that have been mutually agreed upon.

Article 88 (OACPS-EU Council of Ministers)

The Republic of Uganda states that substantive decisions of the OACPS-EU Council of Ministers under Article 88(5), shall only be binding where they are adopted by consensus. Uganda shall not be bound by decisions taken by a majority vote, where they relate to issues impacting its sovereignty, legal framework, or fundamental national interests.

Article 90 (OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly)

The Republic of Uganda understands that the Joint Parliamentary Assembly under Article 90 is a consultative forum for dialogue. Its resolutions and recommendations are expressly non-binding and shall not be considered a source of legal obligation for the Government of Uganda.

Article 97 (Other Agreements or Arrangements)

The Republic of Uganda declares its understanding that the Samoa Agreement is complementary to and does not supersede or terminate any existing bilateral or multilateral treaties, conventions, or agreements to which Uganda is a party, including those with individual EU Member States.

Article 98 (Consent to be bound, Entry into force and Provisional application)

Uganda declares that pursuant to Article 98(2) & (3), its recognition of any measure taken to implement the Agreement between the date of its entry into force and the date of Uganda's ratification is conditional. Uganda is only bound to recognize such measures if they are consistent with this Declaration, its Constitution, and its national laws.