

FOREWORD

The Government of the Republic of Uganda developed a National Policy on Disability. The policy aims at promoting equal opportunities for enhanced empowerment, participation and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities irrespective of gender, age, or type of disability. This is in recognition that persons with disabilities can live to their full potential given the same conditions and opportunities. The policy among other things emphasises the need to have an accessible physical environment.

The Uganda Constitution and other legal legislations also provide for accessibility. Good accessibility is not only for persons with disabilities but also for elderly persons, the sick, pregnant women, and those carrying heavy loads.

Despite the efforts of the government to establish a conducive environment for participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of life, they still face difficulties in terms of accessing the physical infrastructure.

Most buildings do not have facilities such as ramps, lifts, and so on. Some of the existing accessibility facilities are not designed according to the required Standards and as a result, persons with disabilities continue to face difficulties in accessing them.

It is for this reason, and in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that Uganda National Action on Physical Disability in collaboration with Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development developed these Accessibility Standards to promote better access for all people.

The development of these Accessibility Standards was done through a number of consultative meetings with different stakeholders including representatives from the line ministries, disabled people's organisations, persons with disabilities, architects, physical planners, building engineers and community development workers.

With the introduction of Accessibility Standards, those participating in the construction industry must observe the Standards in new constructions and as much as possible during reconstruction and renovation of existing structures. I call upon the designers of physical infrastructure to utilize them so as to ensure persons with disabilities equal access to the various services.



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