UGANDA DIASPORA POLICY INPUT & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Diaspora perspectives and recommendations toward an inclusive, responsive and forward-looking Uganda Diaspora Policy.

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Executive Summary

Uganda Global Forum (UGF) welcomes the review of Uganda's Diaspora Policy and the opportunity for Ugandans abroad to contribute directly to the development of the final framework. This submission consolidates recurring issues emerging from UGF's diaspora engagement, written community submissions, issue-specific survey evidence and a review of the draft Diaspora Support Policy. It is intended as practical policy input rather than a claim to represent every Ugandan living abroad.

The central finding is that the draft already reaches well beyond traditional notions of "support". It addresses participation, investment, skills and knowledge transfer, diaspora organisation, heritage, return and other forms of engagement. The final Policy would therefore be stronger if its title, institutional architecture and implementation arrangements reflected this wider relationship more clearly and if related actions were organized around a smaller number of strategic priorities.

UGF's priority recommendations are to:

- Adopt the title "Uganda Diaspora Support and Engagement Policy" to reflect the scope already contained in the draft.
- Streamline the Policy into a small number of strategic pillars, supported by cross-cutting implementation enablers for data, communication, coordination and accountability.
- Institutionalize continuous diaspora participation and create a clearly designated central Government coordination point for diaspora matters.
- Distinguish Government coordination from diaspora representation, and clarify the purpose, composition and ownership of the proposed National Diaspora Council.
- Recognize and work through existing diaspora organizations and networks, protect their independence, and promote inclusive and non-partisan engagement.
- Improve access to consular, documentation, welfare and emergency services, including stronger outreach to students and communities far from missions.
- Create differentiated pathways for settled professionals, investors, students, workers and younger generations rather than applying one engagement model to the entire diaspora.
- Address citizenship and dual-citizenship questions affecting children born abroad, retention of citizenship by birth and restrictions on public office, while maintaining proportionate security and record-keeping safeguards.

Taken together, these recommendations call for a Diaspora Policy that moves beyond fragmented or periodic engagement toward a more structured, inclusive and accountable relationship between Uganda and its global diaspora. The final framework should respond to the different realities of Ugandans abroad while creating clear mechanisms for participation, representation, service delivery, investment, skills transfer and sustained institutional engagement. Uganda Global Forum's central recommendation is therefore that the Policy be designed not only as a framework for supporting Ugandans abroad, but also as a long-term platform for engaging the diaspora as an active partner in Uganda's development.

Overview and Evidence Base

Uganda Global Forum welcomes the ongoing process to review and strengthen Uganda's Diaspora Policy and the opportunity for Ugandans living abroad to contribute their experiences, priorities and recommendations to its development. As a diaspora-led platform, UGF works from within the diaspora to facilitate structured engagement by Ugandans abroad, strengthen opportunities for diaspora perspectives and expertise to inform policy, and create pathways for meaningful diaspora participation in Uganda's development. This submission is UGF's contribution to the Diaspora Policy consultation process. It brings forward recurring issues, experiences and proposals emerging from diaspora engagement and sets out how these can inform the framing, priorities and development of the final Policy. The submission is intended to complement, rather than replace, the wider Government consultation process.

The evidence base combines issue-specific survey work, written and consultative input from diaspora leaders, associations and community representatives, and UGF's review of the draft Diaspora Support Policy. A key source was the June 2026 Dual Citizenship Survey, which examined citizenship by birth, dual citizenship, children born abroad and restrictions affecting dual citizens. UGF also reviewed written submissions from organized diaspora communities to identify concerns that appeared across several contexts as well as issues particular to specific regions or categories of the diaspora.

This process was not designed as a census or statistically representative study of the entire Ugandan diaspora. Participation was voluntary and varied across countries and communities. The findings should therefore be read as a consolidation of perspectives from participating diaspora stakeholders and as evidence of issues that merit consideration in the final Policy.

Overarching Observations On The Draft Diaspora Policy

UGF's overarching observations concern the framing and architecture of the draft rather than a proposal to replace its direction. The draft contains many of the elements required for a modern diaspora framework; the main opportunity is to organize them more clearly, make the reciprocal nature of the relationship more explicit and strengthen the mechanisms through which the Policy will operate in practice.

1. Align the Policy Title with Its Actual Scope

UGF recommends that the title "Diaspora Support Policy" be revised to "Uganda Diaspora Support and Engagement Policy". This does not introduce engagement as a new function. Engagement is already embedded throughout the draft through participation, partnership, diaspora associations, investment, skills and knowledge transfer, heritage, return and other forms of contribution. The issue is therefore not whether engagement belongs in the Policy; it already does. The issue is whether the title accurately communicates the relationship the Policy seeks to establish. Retaining

"support" recognizes Government's responsibilities to Ugandans abroad, while adding "engagement" makes equally visible the mechanisms through which the diaspora participates, contributes and partners with Uganda.

2. Frame the Diaspora as Both a Constituency to Support and a Partner to Engage

The Policy should consistently recognize the diaspora in two complementary capacities. Ugandans abroad are citizens and communities who may require services, protection, information and institutional support. They are also individuals and organized communities with skills, knowledge, capital, professional experience and networks that can contribute to Uganda's social, economic and institutional development. A policy framed mainly around support risks presenting the diaspora primarily as recipients; a policy framed mainly around mobilization risks presenting them primarily as a resource. UGF therefore recommends a reciprocal framing in which Government responsibilities and diaspora participation are treated as parts of the same relationship. Government should provide accessible services, reliable information, protection, investment safeguards and clear channels for consultation and follow-up, while diaspora communities should have practical pathways to contribute skills, research, investment, entrepreneurship, networks and other forms of expertise.

3. Move from Episodic to Structured and Continuous Engagement

The final Policy should establish mechanisms through which engagement with the diaspora takes place regularly and predictably. Diaspora conventions, official visits, webinars and occasional consultations can play an important role, but they should complement rather than substitute for permanent channels of communication, consultation and collaboration. The draft provides a useful foundation for this approach. UGF recommends that these provisions be brought together into a clearer engagement framework setting out how Government will consult diaspora communities, recognize and engage diaspora organizations and professional networks, communicate opportunities and policy developments, facilitate partnerships with relevant institutions in Uganda, and provide feedback on issues raised. The objective should be an institutional relationship that survives individual events, office-holders and short-term initiatives.

4. Build a Future-Ready and Differentiated Diaspora Framework

The Policy should be designed not only around the diaspora as it exists today, but also around how it is changing. Ugandans abroad include labour migrants, students, long-established professional communities, entrepreneurs, investors, dual citizens, families and younger generations born outside Uganda. Their needs and opportunities for engagement differ significantly. The final framework should therefore allow differentiated approaches for different categories and stages of the diaspora experience. Protection and consular support may be central for some groups, while others require professional, investment, research, youth, cultural or return pathways. The Policy should remain sufficiently flexible and evidence-based to adapt as migration patterns, technology, economic conditions and international circumstances change.

5. Simplify the Policy Architecture into Strategic Pillars

The draft Policy contains a broad and important range of interventions, but its organisation across numerous thematic areas makes the framework detailed and, in some instances, repetitive. Several thematic areas address closely related stages of the same diaspora experience, while common implementation requirements, including information provision, institutional coordination, data sharing, capacity building and monitoring, recur across multiple sections. UGF recommends grouping related thematic areas under a smaller number of strategic pillars, while retaining detailed actions beneath them as programmes or implementation measures. One possible architecture is:

Proposed strategic pillar	**Illustrative scope**
1. Consular Services, Welfare and Protection	Documentation, consular access, emergency response, safeguarding, pre-departure and return support.
2. Participation, Representation and Diaspora Institutions	Consultation, representation, diaspora organizations, Government coordination and sustained engagement.
3. Investment, Trade and Economic Engagement	Investment facilitation, remittances, entrepreneurship, trade, investor protection and financial products.
4. Skills, Knowledge, Innovation and Professional Engagement	Skills transfer, research, mentorship, technology, professional networks and institutional partnerships.
5. Citizenship, Identity, Heritage and Future Generations	Citizenship, belonging, heritage, children born abroad, youth and second/subsequent generations.

Priority Issues Emerging from Diaspora Consultation

1) Participation, Representation and Institutional Coordination

A recurring issue in diaspora consultations is the need for clearer and more consistent mechanisms through which Ugandans abroad can contribute to national processes. Engagement should extend beyond receiving information, attending occasional Government events or being mobilized around specific initiatives. Participants called for predictable channels through which diaspora perspectives can be communicated, considered and followed through. The final Policy should institutionalize diaspora participation throughout policy development, implementation, monitoring and review. This includes formal channels through which diaspora perspectives can reach Parliament, Cabinet-level policy processes and relevant national committees, together with consideration of legally feasible options for more direct diaspora representation. The immediate priority is to establish transparent and predictable routes into decision-making rather than leaving participation dependent on ad hoc invitations.

The institutional structure also requires simplification. UGF recommends a single, clearly designated central Government coordination institution or secretariat for diaspora matters, whether strengthened within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or constituted through another dedicated arrangement. Its role should be to coordinate Ministries, Departments and Agencies, manage referrals, track unresolved issues and report on implementation. This would avoid the current risk of multiple diaspora units, desks and focal points operating without one clearly accountable centre.

The proposed National Diaspora Council should be treated separately from this Government coordination function. If it is intended to represent the diaspora, its membership should be drawn primarily from diaspora associations, professional networks and geographic or regional constituencies through transparent selection processes. Government would remain an essential counterpart, but a diaspora representative council should not simply operate as an extension of Government administration.

UGF Recommendations

- Establish formal and continuous mechanisms for diaspora participation in policy development, implementation, monitoring and review.
- Create formal channels for diaspora perspectives to reach Parliament, Cabinet-level policy processes and relevant national committees, and review legally feasible options for direct representation.
- Designate a single central Government coordination institution or secretariat for diaspora matters, with authority to coordinate referrals, follow-up and reporting across MDAs.
- Distinguish the Government coordination mechanism from the National Diaspora Council and define the latter, if retained, as a genuinely representative diaspora platform with transparent selection and formal voting arrangements.
- Publish clear institutional responsibilities and referral pathways so diaspora communities know where issues should be raised and how they will be followed through.

2) Diaspora Organizations, Associations, Networks and Partnerships

Diaspora organizations, associations, professional networks, cultural organizations, business groups, faith communities and other diaspora-led structures are an important part of Uganda's engagement infrastructure abroad. They connect Ugandans within their countries of residence, provide community support, preserve cultural connections and often serve as the first point of mobilization when Government seeks to communicate or engage with diaspora communities, as well as responders when diaspora members are in distress. UGF consultations point to the need for Government engagement to build upon these existing diaspora structures

The Policy should also recognize that diaspora organizations can contribute beyond Ugandan communities by participating in regional and global platforms specifically designed for diaspora and civil-society actors. This role should be distinguished from Government representation in international institutions. For example, the African Union has specific mechanisms through which African diaspora civil-society organizations participate in continental processes:

ECOSOCC includes designated seats for African diaspora organizations[1], while the AU Diaspora Division facilitates the accreditation of diaspora organizations and networks as observers, delegates and participants in AU meetings and processes[2]. These are therefore spaces intended for non-state and diaspora actors, not substitutes for the participation of Member State governments. The Policy should therefore recognize and support diaspora organizations that seek to represent Ugandan perspectives in regional and global diaspora and civil-society platforms, build partnerships with diaspora organizations from other countries, and participate in broader African and global conversations relevant to Uganda's development and diaspora interests. Government support could include institutional recognition, introductions to relevant regional and international bodies, information on participation opportunities, and facilitation of appropriate accreditation or engagement processes.

Several consultations also raised concern about the politicization of diaspora engagement, with participants describing it as contributing to divisions within diaspora communities and weakening trust in Government-led engagement. The Policy should therefore promote an inclusive and non-partisan approach in which access to Government, participation and partnership are not determined by political affiliation or perceived political alignment.

UGF Recommendations

- Recognize and work through existing diaspora-led organizations and networks as legitimate partners in diaspora engagement, while avoiding the creation of parallel structures that duplicate or undermine those already established within diaspora communities.
- Promote inclusive and non-partisan diaspora engagement, ensuring that access to Government, participation and partnership are not shaped by political affiliation, perceived political alignment or partisan considerations.
- Develop a voluntary directory of diaspora associations, professional networks and other organized groups to strengthen communication, coordination and institutional access.
- Support collaboration and diaspora-led initiatives across countries and sectors, including direct partnerships between diaspora professional networks and relevant institutions in Uganda.
- Ensure transparent and inclusive opportunities to access support or funding for eligible diaspora-led initiatives.
- Support eligible Ugandan diaspora organizations to participate in regional and global platforms created for diaspora and civil-society engagement, including relevant African Union and migration forums, through recognition, information-sharing, introductions and facilitation of accreditation, while keeping this role distinct from official Government representation.

[1] African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), *Call for Applications for Elections into the 5th Permanent General Assembly*, 15 May 2026: https://ecosocc.au.int/en/elections

[2] African Union, Citizens and Diaspora Directorate, *The Diaspora Division:* https://au.int/en/diaspora-division

3) Consular Services, Documentation, Welfare and Protection

Access to reliable and responsive Government services remains one of the most immediate ways in which Ugandans abroad experience their relationship with the State. The draft Policy gives considerable attention to documentation, protection, emergency response and assistance to Ugandans abroad, including mechanisms for the acquisition, renewal and replacement of identification and other documents, as well as assistance, repatriation and reintegration for Ugandans facing difficult circumstances abroad.

Diaspora submissions and consultations emphasize that these provisions must translate into services that are accessible regardless of where an individual resides. Communities called for clearer information on requirements, fees and processing timelines, more digital and outreach-based services, designated points of contact and clearer mechanisms for escalating unresolved cases. Where a country does not have a resident mission, the Policy should specify regional or alternative service arrangements rather than leaving access dependent on informal workarounds.

Student communities require particular attention. Student associations raised concerns relating to documentation, emergencies, hospitalization, detention, academic or administrative difficulties, financial distress and transition into professional life. The Policy should recognize organized student communities as engagement and communication partners, while keeping formal responsibility for consular and welfare services with Government and diplomatic missions.

UGF Recommendations

- Publish service standards for key consular and documentation services, including requirements, fees, expected timelines and escalation routes.
- Expand digital, mobile and periodic outreach services, with clear regional arrangements for communities without nearby Ugandan missions.
- Strengthen emergency and welfare response through accessible central emergency contacts, mission focal persons and referral protocols.
- Establish a dedicated engagement approach for Ugandan students abroad, including regular engagement with recognized student associations and targeted consular information.
- Measure diaspora experience and satisfaction with consular services and use the findings to improve delivery.

4) Diaspora Investment and Economic Engagement

Diaspora economic engagement should extend beyond remittances and recognize the diaspora as potential investors, entrepreneurs, business partners and participants in Uganda's financial markets. The draft Policy acknowledges diaspora investment, remittances, business opportunities and economic connectivity, while also identifying investment barriers and unfavorable taxes among the challenges affecting diaspora engagement.

A recurring consideration in diaspora engagement is that willingness to invest must be matched by confidence in the systems through which investments are made and protected. Diaspora investors require reliable information, transparent procedures, credible opportunities and accessible mechanisms for addressing disputes or suspected misconduct. Written submissions also raised tax uncertainty and the risk of double taxation as issues that should be assessed rather than left outside the diaspora investment framework.

UGF Recommendations

- Establish a trusted diaspora investment information and referral mechanism linking investors to verified opportunities and the appropriate regulatory institutions.
- Strengthen complaints, investor-protection and dispute-resolution pathways for property, business and other diaspora investments.
- Assess tax-related barriers to diaspora investment, including double-taxation concerns, and publish clear guidance on applicable tax obligations and available relief mechanisms.
- Promote diversified and appropriately regulated investment channels, including capital-market and professionally managed opportunities.
- Measure diaspora economic contribution beyond remittances, including investment, business creation, trade and employment generation.

5) Skills, Knowledge and Technology Transfer

The Ugandan diaspora possesses significant professional, technical, academic, entrepreneurial and institutional expertise that can complement financial contributions to the country. The draft Policy recognizes knowledge, skills, technology and professional expertise as important forms of diaspora capital and identifies their contribution to sustainable national development. For this potential to be realized, skills transfer requires mechanisms that connect diaspora expertise with identifiable needs in Uganda.

UGF consultations point to the need for a more differentiated approach to settled and professional diaspora communities. In some countries these communities may be smaller in number but include highly skilled professionals, entrepreneurs and investors with significant potential for long-term engagement. Their engagement should not be framed mainly through pre-departure, labour-migration or crisis-response mechanisms. Structured short-term, virtual, project-based and circular-engagement pathways can allow professionals to contribute without requiring permanent return.

UGF Recommendations

- Create differentiated engagement pathways for settled and professional diaspora communities, including short-term, virtual, project-based and circular-engagement opportunities that do not depend on permanent return.

- Facilitate direct partnerships between diaspora professionals and institutions in Uganda, including universities, research institutions, Government agencies and the private sector.
- Provide structured mechanisms for professional and settled diaspora communities to contribute through skills transfer, mentorship, research, innovation, advisory support, investment and institutional collaboration.

6) Second and Subsequent Generations

Uganda's diaspora increasingly includes children and descendants born or raised outside the country whose relationship with Uganda may differ significantly from that of first-generation migrants. The draft Policy recognizes persons born abroad within its scope and includes the preservation and promotion of Uganda's heritage among its thematic areas. These provisions provide an important foundation, but engagement with second and subsequent generations requires more deliberate attention if their connection to Uganda is to be sustained over time.

For younger generations, connection to Uganda may depend on opportunities to understand their citizenship status, learn about Uganda's languages and cultures, visit and experience the country, build professional and social networks, and participate in activities relevant to their own interests. A forward-looking diaspora policy should therefore treat next-generation engagement not only as cultural preservation, but also as a long-term investment in citizenship, belonging, professional connection and continued participation.

UGF Recommendations

- Include a dedicated focus on second and subsequent generations within the Policy and its implementation framework.
- Provide clear information on citizenship and documentation pathways for children and descendants of Ugandans born abroad.
- Support cultural, language, educational, exchange, mentorship and professional programmes that create meaningful connections with Uganda.
- Create channels through which diaspora youth can participate directly in diaspora policy implementation and engagement initiatives.

7) Citizenship, Dual Citizenship and Belonging

Citizenship and belonging emerged as a significant concern in UGF's consultations. Three issues were examined in particular: the status of children born abroad to Ugandan parents who also acquire another nationality at birth; the protection and retention of Ugandan citizenship when a citizen by birth acquires another nationality; and restrictions affecting dual citizens' eligibility for certain public offices. The June 2026 Dual Citizenship Survey received 114 voluntary responses. It is not statistically representative of the entire diaspora, but it provides a useful indication of the strength and direction of views among participating respondents. Detailed methodology and figures are provided in Annex A.

Issue	Survey finding	Policy question raised
Children born abroad	87.7% supported recognition as Ugandan citizens from birth even where another citizenship is acquired at birth.	How should citizenship by birth be recognized and documented before age 18 where a child also holds another nationality?
Retention after acquiring another nationality	90.4% agreed that a Ugandan by birth should retain Ugandan citizenship without having to reapply.	Can record-keeping and security safeguards be achieved through notification/registration without creating uncertainty around citizenship by birth?
Public office restrictions	67.5% supported reviewing restrictions; 32.5% did not.	Does the current list distinguish sufficiently between genuinely sensitive offices and other leadership roles?

i. Children Born Abroad to Ugandan Parents

Respondents supporting recognition generally viewed citizenship as arising from parentage and argued that acquisition of another nationality at birth should not weaken a child's Ugandan identity or legal connection. The Constitution recognizes as a citizen by birth a person born in or outside Uganda where, at the time of that person's birth, a parent or grandparent was a Ugandan citizen by birth.[3] Current immigration guidance, however, states that minors are not eligible for dual citizenship before age 18. UGF therefore recommends that the final Policy call for legal and administrative clarity on how qualifying children can have their Ugandan citizenship recognized and documented in practice.

ii. Retention of Citizenship after Acquiring Another Nationality

The 2009 dual-citizenship framework permits a Ugandan aged 18 or above who acquires another nationality to retain Ugandan citizenship, subject to the Constitution and the prescribed notice and registration requirements. Survey respondents nevertheless questioned why citizenship by birth should become dependent on an additional administrative process when another nationality is acquired. UGF's policy position is that citizenship by birth should be protected, with a simple notification or registration process used for record-keeping and appropriate safeguards rather than procedures that create uncertainty about continued citizenship.

iii. Dual Citizenship and Eligibility for Public Office

Views were more divided on public office. Respondents supporting review emphasized professional expertise, international exposure and networks; respondents opposing review most often raised sovereignty and national-security concerns. Current law lists several offices that dual citizens may not hold, including President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and other Ministers, senior security positions and membership of the National Citizenship and Immigration Board. UGF therefore proposes a review focused on whether the list remains appropriately tailored to genuinely sensitive offices rather than assuming that all restrictions should either be retained or removed.

[3] Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 (as amended), art. 10(b).

UGF Recommendations

Based on the consultation findings and survey evidence, Uganda Global Forum recommends that the final Diaspora Policy support the following reforms:

- Clarify the legal and administrative status of children born abroad to Ugandan parents and ensure that children who qualify as citizens by birth can have that citizenship appropriately recognized and documented, including where they acquire another citizenship at birth.
- Protect the Ugandan citizenship of citizens by birth who acquire another nationality and simplify retention procedures through clear and accessible notification or registration mechanisms rather than processes that create uncertainty around continued citizenship.
- Review restrictions on dual citizens holding public office to assess whether the existing list appropriately distinguishes positions involving substantial national-security or sovereign responsibilities from other leadership roles, including the current blanket restriction covering Cabinet Ministers and other Ministers. The Act presently lists ministerial offices among the positions dual citizens are not qualified to hold.
- Improve public information and consular guidance on dual citizenship, including requirements for children born abroad, citizenship-retention procedures, documentation and the consequences of acquiring another nationality.

Implementation Enablers

Several issues cut across all of the substantive priorities above. Rather than treating them as additional policy themes, UGF recommends presenting them as implementation enablers that determine whether the Policy can be delivered consistently across institutions and countries.

a) Institutional Coordination, Accountability and Continuity

Diaspora engagement cuts across a large number of Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The final Policy should therefore be accompanied by an implementation matrix that identifies the lead and supporting institutions for each action, delivery timelines, resource implications, indicators and reporting responsibilities. This would translate broad commitments into an instrument that can be monitored by Government and the diaspora. Implementation should be institutional rather than dependent on individual office-holders, personalities or temporary initiatives. Clear responsibilities, documented referral processes and regular public reporting will be important for maintaining continuity when officials change or programmes are restructured.

b) Communication, Feedback, Trust and Follow-Through

Trust and communication are closely connected. Diaspora communities are more likely to engage where information is accurate, processes are transparent, responsibilities are clear and commitments are followed through. Repeated consultations without visible outcomes or feedback can weaken confidence even where opportunities for participation technically exist. The Policy should therefore define communication as a two-way function. Government should disseminate reliable information, but it should also acknowledge submissions, explain how input has been

considered, communicate decisions and provide routes for escalating unresolved matters. Feedback and follow-through should be measured as part of implementation rather than treated as optional communication activities.

c) Inclusion and Diversity of Diaspora Voices

The diaspora is not a single, uniform constituency. Experiences vary by country of residence, migration pathway, profession, age, gender, generation and length of time abroad. Data and consultation mechanisms should therefore be designed to capture this diversity without assuming that one organisation, region or highly visible group can represent the entire diaspora. UGF recommends regular diaspora surveys, voluntary data systems with clear privacy safeguards, and partnerships with researchers and diaspora organizations to identify changing migration patterns, service needs and opportunities for engagement. Evidence should be used to update priorities over time and to test whether the Policy is improving participation, service access, investment confidence and institutional responsiveness.

d) Sustainable Funding and Resourcing

Effective implementation of the Diaspora Policy will require predictable and equitable resourcing for both Government institutions and eligible diaspora organizations. Diaspora associations often provide community-level services that Government and Missions may not be equipped to deliver directly, including welfare support, first-response assistance. While some country associations already receive forms of Government support, others providing similar services rely entirely on voluntary contributions. The Policy should therefore establish a transparent funding mechanism through which eligible and accountable diaspora organizations can receive annual Government support to implement agreed aspects of the Policy.

Conclusion

Uganda's Diaspora Policy is an opportunity to establish a clearer, more durable relationship between the State and Ugandans abroad. The draft already contains a broad range of relevant functions; the principal task is to organize them into a framework that is easier to understand, implement and hold accountable. UGF's submission therefore emphasizes three connected ideas: Government support and diaspora engagement should be treated as parts of the same relationship; participation should be structured and continuous rather than episodic; and implementation should be anchored in clear institutions, measurable responsibilities and transparent feedback. A final Policy built around these principles would be better positioned to respond to the diversity of Uganda's global diaspora while creating practical pathways for contribution, protection, belonging and long-term partnership. Uganda Global Forum remains committed to contributing evidence, networks and diaspora perspectives to the development and implementation of the final Policy.

Consolidated Priority Recommendations

For ease of consideration during finalization of the Policy, UGF consolidates its principal recommendations below. Detailed rationale is provided in the preceding sections.

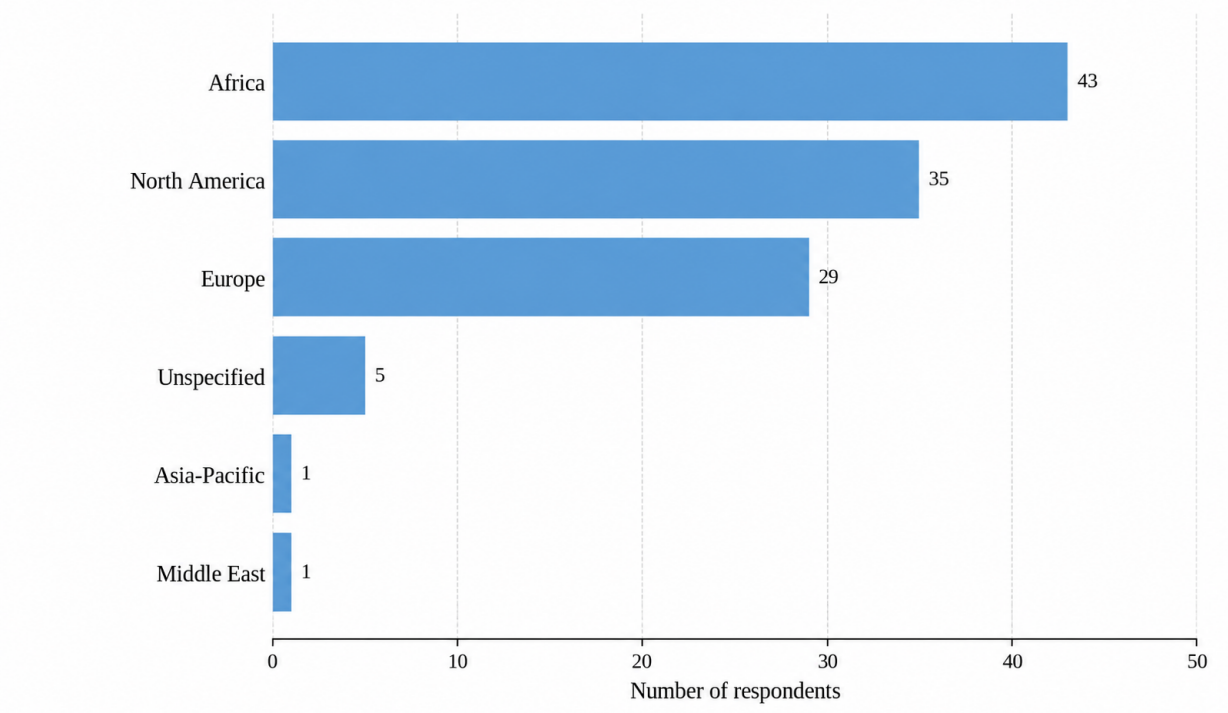
Priority area	Recommended action
Policy title and framing	Adopt "Uganda Diaspora Support and Engagement Policy" and consistently frame the diaspora as both a constituency to support and a partner to engage.
Policy architecture	Group related thematic areas under a smaller number of strategic pillars and treat data, communication, coordination and accountability as cross-cutting enablers.
Participation	Institutionalize continuous consultation and formal channels for diaspora input into national policy and decision-making processes.
Government coordination	Designate one clearly accountable central Government coordination institution or secretariat for diaspora matters and cross-MDA follow-up.
Diaspora representation	Separate Government coordination from diaspora representation and clarify the National Diaspora Council as a genuinely representative, transparently selected diaspora platform.
Diaspora organizations	Recognize and partner with existing diaspora-led structures through transparent, inclusive and non-partisan criteria; avoid unnecessary parallel structures.
Consular services	Publish service standards, expand digital and outreach services, strengthen emergency pathways and develop targeted engagement with students.
Investment	Create trusted investment information, protection and dispute-resolution pathways and assess tax-related barriers affecting cross-border investment.
Skills and professional engagement	Create differentiated short-term, virtual and project-based pathways that connect diaspora expertise with identified institutional needs in Uganda.
Next generations	Develop citizenship, cultural, education, exchange and professional pathways for children and subsequent generations of Ugandan heritage.
Citizenship	Clarify citizenship by birth for children born abroad, protect citizenship by birth when another nationality is acquired, and review the scope of public-office restrictions on dual citizens.
Implementation	Publish an implementation matrix with lead institutions, timelines, indicators, resource implications and regular public progress reporting.

ANNEX A.

Dual Citizenship Survey: Methodology and Detailed Findings

To better understand perspectives on dual citizenship and related citizenship issues, Uganda Global Forum conducted an online global survey in June 2026. The survey formed part of a broader engagement process that included public discussions, stakeholder consultations, and an expert webinar on Uganda's Dual Citizenship Laws and the Diaspora. The survey sought to gather experiences, opinions, and recommendations from Ugandans both at home and abroad on issues affecting citizenship, belonging, and diaspora engagement. In addition, respondents were invited to share recommendations on how Uganda could reform its dual citizenship framework and strengthen diaspora engagement. The survey attracted responses from Ugandans residing in more than eighteen countries across Africa, Europe, North America, and the Middle East, including Uganda, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Belgium, Germany, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, South Africa, Rwanda, Namibia, Kenya, Algeria, South Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, and Malawi, among others. It received 114 voluntary responses. The survey is informative but not statistically representative of the entire Ugandan diaspora.

Figure A1. Survey respondents by region

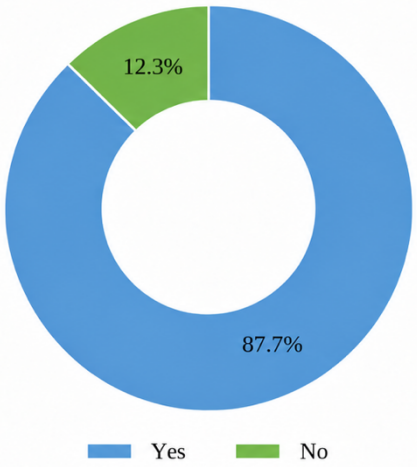


Source: Uganda Global Forum, Dual Citizenship Survey (2026).

Recognition of children born abroad

Figure A2

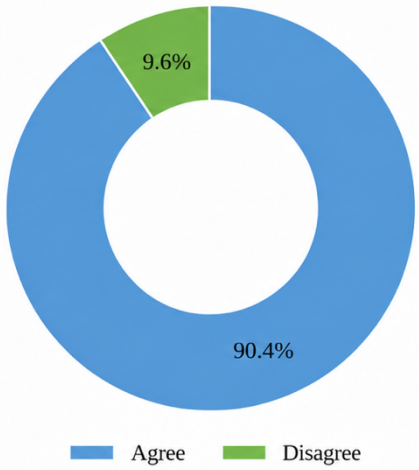
Should children born abroad to at least one Ugandan citizen parent automatically be recognized as Ugandan citizens from birth, even if they acquire another country's citizenship at birth?



Source: Uganda Global Forum, Dual Citizenship Survey (2026).

Figure A3

Do you agree that an Ugandan by birth should not lose Ugandan citizenship automatically upon acquiring another country's citizenship and should not be required to reapply for citizenship later?

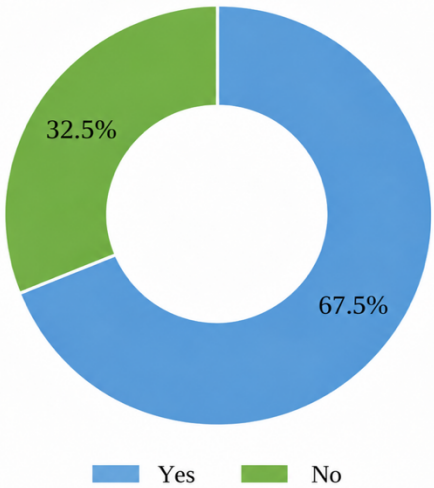


Source: Uganda Global Forum, Dual Citizenship Survey (2026).

Review of restrictions on dual citizens holding public office

Figure A4

Do you believe current restrictions on dual citizens holding certain public offices should be reviewed and reconsidered?



Source: Uganda Global Forum, Dual Citizenship Survey (2026).

The survey was guided by three core questions:

1. Should children born abroad to at least one Ugandan citizen parent automatically be recognized as Ugandan citizens from birth, even if they acquire another country's citizenship at birth?
2. Do you agree that a Ugandan by birth should not lose Ugandan citizenship automatically upon acquiring another country's citizenship and should not be required to reapply for citizenship later?
3. Do you believe current restrictions on dual citizens holding certain public offices should be reviewed and reconsidered?

In Figure A2, 87.7% of respondents supported recognizing children born abroad to at least one Ugandan citizen parent as Ugandan citizens from birth, even where another citizenship is acquired at birth, while 12.3% did not. Figure A3 shows an even stronger level of agreement on citizenship retention, with 90.4% of respondents supporting the view that a Ugandan by birth should retain Ugandan citizenship after acquiring another nationality without having to reapply, compared with 8% who disagreed. Figure A4 shows a more divided, though still majority, view on public office restrictions, with 67.5% supporting a review of the restrictions affecting dual citizens and 32.5% preferring the current restrictions to remain. Taken together, the findings indicate strong support among respondents for protecting citizenship by birth and maintaining legal connection to Uganda after acquisition of another nationality, while also showing substantial support for reviewing whether restrictions on dual citizens in public office are appropriately limited to genuinely sensitive positions.

ANNEX B.

Diaspora Consultations and Written Submissions

Diaspora community / organization	Country/region	Main areas raised	Supporting submission
Ugandans in Queensland Inc.	Australia	Definition and formal recognition of diaspora associations; reciprocal Government commitments to accredited associations; diaspora representation and voting rights on the proposed National Diaspora Council; differentiated engagement for settled and professional diaspora communities; implementation accountability; investment and double-taxation concerns; and consistency of policy data and evidence	View Report
Ugandans in Denmark	Denmark	Consular services and documentation; welfare and psychosocial support; inclusion and community organization; Government coordination and communication; younger-generation engagement; skills and knowledge transfer; return and reintegration; participation and representation; diaspora data; and implementation accountability.	View Report
Ugandans in South Korea Association (USKA)	South Korea	Accessible consular services and stronger diplomatic coverage; education, scholarship and student-support pathways; skills, research and technology transfer linked to identified needs in Uganda; enterprise and innovation partnerships; sport and community wellbeing; transparent diaspora representation; data protection and voluntary participation; and clear implementation responsibilities, timelines, accountability and feedback mechanisms.	View Report

National Alliance of Ugandan Canadian Associations (NAUCA)	Canada	Inclusive and non-partisan diaspora engagement; meaningful consultation with clear Government follow-through; mobilization of Ugandan Canadian professional expertise; sustained engagement with second, third and subsequent generations; diaspora voting and representation; regular Government–diaspora dialogue; and clear implementation responsibilities, timelines, resources and accountability mechanisms.	**View Report**
Ugandan Voice in Switzerland (UVIS)	Switzerland	Establishment of a fully-fledged Ugandan diplomatic mission in Switzerland; accessible passport, citizenship and consular services; integration, language and employment support; qualification recognition and professional networking; diaspora investment; welfare, psychosocial support and anti-discrimination; return and retirement pathways; second-generation and cultural engagement; skills transfer and civic participation; community data, communication and implementation accountability.	**View Report**
Uganda Students Association in Algeria	Algeria	Scholarship and stipend disbursement; local passport renewal and replacement; structured internships and professional exposure; recognition and equivalence of Algerian qualifications; postgraduate scholarship support; emergency medical assistance; student welfare and mental-health support; and transition and reintegration after graduation.	**View Report**
Association of Ugandan Students in Northern Cyprus	Northern Cyprus	Accessible consular services; emergency assistance and protection; passport and documentation services; structured engagement with student associations; employment, internships, research, mentorship and skills-transfer opportunities; reintegration links to Uganda; and stronger student participation and representation in diaspora policy processes.	**View Report**

Uganda Students' Association in China	China	Internship and professional-development opportunities for students; student protection and welfare; emergency assistance for accidents, detention, hospitalization and lost documents; opportunities for skills, investment and knowledge transfer; and more regular consultation, communication and feedback between Ugandan missions and diaspora communities.	**View Report**
Association of Ugandan Students in India	India	Student protection before departure; education and recruitment scams; verification of institutions and scholarships; consular and emergency support; documentation and attestation delays; university disputes; housing and accommodation exploitation; legal, financial and immigration distress; and structured engagement with student associations.	**View Report**
Ugandan Community Finland	Finland	Mobile consular outreach and improved appointment/payment systems; passport, visa and repatriation support; regular official communication; land and investment protection; remote banking and investment access; improved Nordic air connectivity; cultural and second-generation engagement; structured skills transfer and short-term diaspora technical consultancy; university and research partnerships; diaspora insurance; and safeguards for students and workers.	**View Report**
Ugandan Community in Poland	Poland	Citizenship rights and legal status; diaspora investment and remittance barriers; consular services, migrant protection and emergency repatriation; protection of diaspora investments; dual citizenship and recognition of children born abroad; and diaspora skills mapping and transfer.	**View Report**