



MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Kampala: 28/05/2019

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Sam K. Kutesa on Tuesday, 28th May 2019 received in his office, Dr. J. Peter Pham, the United States Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa and they discussed matters related to the Great Lakes Region, and Uganda-United States Co-operation.

Dr. J. Peter Pham commended the progress in Uganda and, Uganda's long term participation in promoting regional security and effective control of Ebola. He highlighted the need to take advantage of the important opportunity to operationalise the new political will in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to work on a regional basis with regards to expanding the window for Peace, Security and Economic development in the Great Lakes Region. He expressed hope that good relations would be maintained between the countries in the region.

Hon. Kutesa welcomed Dr. J. Peter Pham and emphasised Uganda's hope for stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo which could help in bringing to bear Regional and International efforts towards resolving the security situation in the eastern part of the country, in particular with regards to the activities of the Allied Democratic Front (ADF) which were a growing regional threat. He also emphasised Uganda's commitment to regional integration as a key East African Community (EAC) policy based on peace and security. Uganda he said, remains committed to working closely with countries in the region through bilateral and regional frameworks, to address issues of common concern in areas such as trade and security.

Hon. Kutesa and Dr. Pham agreed that the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) should be revitalized bearing in mind the on-going strategic review.

Hon. Kutesa thanked the USA for the support given to Uganda particularly in the Health, Education and Refugee areas, whose enhancement if possible would be highly appreciated. Regarding refugee response, he and Dr. Pham agreed that support was critical for both refugees and host communities though Uganda's settlement policy.

Hon. Kutesa called for increased trade between the USA and Uganda, including through appropriate instruments for private sector access to investment capital, which Dr. Pham said was possible as long as Bankable projects were presented and deliverables guaranteed including through Investment conferences like the proposed Private Sector Investment Conference for the Great Lakes scheduled for October 2019, which could present regional investment opportunities. **END**

**Public Diplomacy Department;
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

