



THE SEARCH FOR A STRATEGY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE MOST NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN UGANDA.

Presented at a Consultative Meeting for the Establishment
of A National Committee for the Management of Social
Transformation (MOST) in Uganda on the 3rd February
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Presentation Outline

1. Defining MOST, its history and the status of MOST National Committee in Uganda
2. The Relevance of the MOST National Committee, its forms/types and Approaches to its Establishment
3. Conclusion



The History of the MOST NC in Uganda

- MOST-Management of Social Transformation is UNESCO's only intergovernmental social science programme launched in 1994 to work with governments, social and human science communities and civil societies to organise and promote research networks, capacity building and clearing house of knowledge, for positive social change.



History and Status of MOST (Cont'd)

MOST has **three operational pillars**:

The **research pillar**, operating in close coordination with the **Scientific Advisory Committee** and networks of social science and humanities

The MOST intergovernmental forums - **subregional Ministerial Forums** and the **Intergovernmental Council**,.

- **Policy support and capacity-building**: MOST Summer Schools, Futures Literacy Labs and Inclusive Policy Lab
- MOST is implemented nationally, regionally and internationally.



History and Status of MOST (Cont'd)

- In 2005, Uganda elected to the IGC for MOST during the 33rd Gen Conference.
- Uganda nominated a rep.(Mr. David Obot) from NURRU



History and Status of MOST (Cont'd)

- Uganda held a consultative Meeting 14th Sept 2006 on “Social Protection”
- Aug. 2011, UNESCO Hqtrs asked for MOST NC Contact Person(Peter Olowo)
- Aug/Sept. 2012 Candidate needed for the MOST Scientific Advisory Committee.
- June 2015, 12th Session of IGC urged MS to set up MOST NCs



The Relevance of the MOST National Committee (NC)

- MOST focuses primarily on building efficient bridges between research, policy and practice for the transfer of relevant Social Sciences research findings and data to decision-makers and other stakeholders.
- The programme promotes a culture of evidence-based policy-making – nationally, regionally and internationally and is in pivotal position as the only UNESCO programme that fosters and promotes social science research.



The Relevance of the MOST NC(Cont'd)

The overall aim of a MOST National Committee is to strengthen in-country social science research capacities and contribute to attaining national priorities by promoting the relevance of research to address critical social issues, redressing gaps in local research capacities, linking research communities and internationalizing their networks, supporting the demand for and recognition of research, etc.



The MOST NC Activities (Relevance of the MOST NC)

The MOST NC Activities

1. Spear-heading capacity-building for quality social science research
 - Mobilizing commitment and investment
 - Monitoring and contributing to public policies for research
 - Strengthening researcher communities
 - Advocating for better research infrastructures



The MOST NC Activities (Cont'd)

2-Fostering research demand and use

- Facilitating the relationship between users and producers
- Communicating key messages about the contribution of research to society
- Fostering research
- Sharing successful practices



The MOST NC Activities (Cont'd)

3. Bridging: thinking both globally and locally
 - Internationalizing research networks
 - Initiating collaborations with foreign institutions
 - Coordinating capacity-building



The establishment of a MOST NC

- The Committee would be a group collectively having the capacities to promote the social sciences, spearhead capacity-building, foster research-policy linkages and strengthen international cooperation. It would include recognised opinion-leaders, who may or may not already have an international reputation but have knowledge of research needs.



Establishment of Most NC

A MOST NC can be in the form of:

- research networks or
- A Focal Point or
- A National Liaison Committee or
- Sub-Commission of the National Commission for UNESCO or
- An Adhoc Committee or
- a fully-fledged National Committee



Establishment of Most NC(Cont'd)

Specific competencies of individuals:

- facilitate networks, dialogue or general awareness raising.
- collectively able to sustain political, academic and public respect.
- members able to attract partners and replacement members.



Establishment of a MOST NC: Size and Representation

- Membership of the Committee should include women and young scientists.
- The Committee needs transparency in the renewal of membership so that qualified candidates from underrepresented groups participate in a later round.
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Establishment of a MOST NC (Cont'd)

- A National Committee should include representatives of different backgrounds to contribute various ideas and points of view, and to have access to researchers and institutions of government.
- The number of members may be a function of expected activities.



Partners of a MOST NC

Policy-makers:

- Offices of the president or prime minister
- Ministries of social development
- Parliamentary commissions
- Politicians & civil servants(various levels)
- Gov't agencies dealing with social agendas, on internationally recognized development goals
- Local government



Partners of a MOST NC

Social scientists:

- Social science institutes
- Universities
- Social science journals
- Professional social science associations
- Associations of young social scientists
- Individual scientists



Partners of a MOST NC (Cont'd)

Civil society representatives:

- National women's, students' and youth organisations
- Non-governmental organisations
- Community leaders
- Trade unions
- Companies and industry leaders
- Media



Partners of a MOST NC (Cont'd)

- The natural Ally of a MOST NC is the UNESCO National Commission.
- Other allies are the UNESCO field Offices, UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks and other Scientific Programmes of UNESCO in the Country.



International Partners of a MOST NC (Cont'd)

- The International Social Science Council, the International Council for Philosophy and Humanities, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) etc.
- Agencies and organisations of the United Nations, development banks, development aid agencies, the European Union, OECD or other regional groupings



Getting Started with a New MOST NC

- The National Commission for UNESCO leads the MOST NC creation and coordinates the MOST Secretariat but does not National Commission for UNESCO, but the MOST NC does not need to be part of the National Commission.
- The request for designation of a newly-created National Committee is reviewed and approved by the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the MOST Programme.



Affiliation of a New MOST NC (Cont'd)

- The new National Committee may be built on existing foundations: E.g. an existing research network or advisory institution. A National Committee can be institutionally anchored/hosted in various ways:
- National Commissions for UNESCO
- Sub-Commissions for social sciences of the National Commissions for UNESCO
- Ministries (e.g. social dev., education, research or internal cooperation)



Affiliation of a New MOST NC (Cont'd)

- Parliamentary commissions and committees
- Research institutes or research centres
- National research councils
- Academies of science
- University social science departments—in one or linking/rotating between several universities
- Youth councils or youth associations
- universities



Reporting of a MOST NC

- A MOST NC reports to the MOST Secretariat at least biannually on its activities and membership, providing names and contacts of officials and brief descriptions of activities: theme, events, publications, and outcomes, and any lessons learnt .
- The MOST NC activities and operations could also be evaluated periodically by the institution to which it is affiliated (or by the National Commission for UNESCO)



Conclusion

We need to decide which of the following forms to adopt:

- A research networks or
- A Focal Point or
- A National Liaison Committee or
- Sub-Commission of the National Commission for UNESCO or
- An Adhoc Committee or a fully-fledged National Committee



THANK YOU

FOR LISTENING