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## Uganda to talk for the poor



Monday, 20 November 2006

By Doreen Kansiiime

**KAMPALA – Uganda will take part in a global dialogue to promote pro poor empowerment by creating laws that support the informal sector.**

The dialogue will focus on property rights, labour rights, entrepreneurship focusing on expanded opportunities for legally establishing and operating a business and access to justice and rule of law. Mr. Swithin Munyantwali, the executive director of International Law Institute Uganda, the coordinators of the dialogue together with the Commission on Legal Empowerment said that they aim to address the concerns of the people in the informal sector.

The Commission on Legal Empowerment intends to make legal protection and economic opportunity not the opportunity of the few but the right of all. Munyantwali said that the dialogue would also listen to the problems of the informal sector and see if these problems can be addressed by the use of law.

The dialogue by the Commission on Legal Empowerment for the poor's main inquiry is to examine how those in the informal sector can be assimilated into the formal sector with a view of promoting economic development and wealth creation for all.

Munyantwali anticipated that one of the commission's recommendations would be to change the way things are done particularly regarding the laws that are already in place.

The commission's dialogues have been going on as national consultation processes in various countries in Europe, Central Asia, South America and now Africa.

The commission is co-chaired by Ms. Madeline Albright the former US secretary of state and Mr. Hernando de Soto a Peruvian economist and founder of the institute for liberty and

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democracy.

The Uganda dialogue will be held at Speke Resort Munyonyo, about eight kilometres east of Kampala on November 24 and 25. It will include key members of the civil society, the informal sector and one of the commissioners Ms. Hilde Johnson who is a senior advisor to the president of the African Development Bank.

The findings from Uganda will be used at the regional consultation process scheduled for Addis Ababa next month.

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