UNCCI: An Overview

The Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI) is the oldest nation-wide umbrella organization for the private sector in Uganda.

Our main objective is to promote and protect the interests of the business community, particularly its members who are represented in all sectors of the economy. The various sectors include, internal and external trade, industry, tourism and, transport, services. UNCCI puts focus on advocating for appropriate economic policies and interventions that encourage a favorable business and investment climate, and working with its members to enhance their capacity to grow and run efficiently. Most importantly UNCCI works with other key partners and players to ensure the enabling environment for the sustainability of the private sector led growth.
Set up in 1933, UNCCI was created by the business community, as a membership organization to guard their interests, at the time of anxiety caused by the great depression of the 1930’s, and thereafter the Second World War.

The umbrella organization suffered a setback with an economic collapse following the 1972 expulsion of Ugandans of Indian origin by Idi Amin.

UNCCI was reconstituted in 1978, and registered as a company limited by guarantee without share capital, guided by a set of by-laws enshrined in articles and memorandum of association. The leadership of the organization is chosen through a vote at an annual general meeting once every five years.

UNCCI enjoys a multi-sectoral membership, with a nationwide outreach. The Chamber is characterized by a network of district Chamber branches which cut across all regions in over 80 districts.

It is this diversity that makes UNCCI the eminent business association, dedicated to advancing commerce and industry relations within Uganda and globally through its networks within the International business community.

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**UNCCI: Mission**

To strengthen the private sector in Uganda, through emphasis of trade promotion, industrial development, effective advocacy for sustainable economic policies, and a conducive climate for economic development.

**UNCCI: Vision**

To be the leading private sector body for the business community in Uganda, providing members with an influential local, regional and global network for business growth.

**UNCCI: Values**

To achieve the above goals, UNCCI requires a set of values that shall define behavior and performance of staff within UNCCI, every day and everywhere.
Our prioritized organizational values are:

- **QUALITY SERVICE**
  
  Offer relevant business development services in a timely and efficient manner

- **INNOVATION**
  
  Introducing new ideas; original and creative thinking

- **INTEGRITY**
  
  Commitment to inherent values of honesty, fairness and transparency

- **TEAMWORK**
  
  Galvanizing collective efficiency and realization of goals together
MEMBERSHIP

To become a member, one is required to:

a. Be of 18 years and above;

b. Be a company registered by the Registrar of Companies;

c. Have a business premise to address Membership

d. Fees: pay a one-time registration fee of 10,000 Uganda Shillings (about 5 U.S $); and pay annual subscription fees at Ordinary, Silver, Gold and Associate levels.

Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry membership is divided into four categories:

1. Ordinary
   This comprises sole proprietorships: Registration fee for this category is 10,000 UGX paid once, and an annual subscription fee of 100,000 UGX.

2. Silver
   This comprises micro-enterprises: Registration fee for this category is 10,000 UGX paid once and an annual subscription fee of 250,000 UGX.

3. Gold
   This category is open to all small and medium enterprises: employing more than 20 people. Registration fee for this category is 10,000 UGX and an annual subscription fee of 500,000 UGX.

4. Associate
   This category is open to multi national business entities, sector associations, large corporate companies and manufacturing Industries with more than 50 employees. Registration fee is 10,000 UGX and an annual subscription fee of 1,000,000 UGX.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Your organization/company will benefit from the general services that UNCCI offers which include;

1. Source of credibility
2. Business Networking
3. Advocacy and Lobbying

SERVICES

UNCCI provides the following services to the business community:

1. Trade and market development
2. Training
3. Advice and consultancy
4. Networking and information
5. Delegated government functions
6. The private sector voice
DEPARTMENTS AND STAFF
(2011—2012)

SECRETARY GENERAL (SG)

The Secretary General heads the everyday administration and management at the Secretariat. He serves on contract as the Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber and reports to the Board of Directors.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

This department ensures that both financial and human resources deployed serve in the interests of the organization. It also ensures transparency, financial discipline and carries out audit and accounts functions. It is also the custodian of the company properties.

COMMUNICATION

The mandate of this department is to ensure an efficient media and communication platform; effective advocacy in line with our core values on behalf of our members; and serve the interests of membership. The department also manages and maintains all communication platforms including the UNCCI website, its publications and many others.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (BDS)

The BDS department researches new types of businesses/products/services and designs solutions for the benefit of our members and partners. The BDS team also manages outward and inward trade missions with the sole purpose of creating business opportunities for the UNCCI membership. This department also manages a consulting function of the Chamber, serving members who wish to commission market/product studies, policy analysis or other forms of consultancy including financial management services, proposal and grant writing, and many other services.

The department manages relationships with donors, development partners and government supported projects. It entails thoughtful definitions of the goals, objectives and needs of each project in order to plan, organize and deliver it from beginning to end. All projects embarked on by UNCCI deliver a value added service or desirable change to its members, partners and the organization.

POLICY RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

The functions of this department is to coordinate and analyze general trade and industry policies for the benefit of members. The department is mainly charged with a research function with an emphasis on trade and industry issues in order to have effective policy analysis and formulation. As such, the department prepares the necessary policy
inputs during government planning processes and also provides support to members in the areas of economic and trade research. Under this department, the official position of UNCCI is prepared on various policy issues and legislative proposals, and it coordinates with various government agencies and private sector agencies to ensure consistency in policies.

**MEMBERSHIP AND REGIONAL COORDINATION**

This department is responsible for national coordination in the numerous District Chamber Offices across the country. It also caters for the recruitment and well-being of all members in the 80 districts across Uganda.

The department is at the heart of the UNCCI. This dynamic department is responsible for managing the Chamber’s documentation and archives. The team under this unit also manages the customer relations function as the first point of contact at the Secretariat.

**UNCCI’S PARTNERS & AFFILIATES**

- Affiliated Chambers
- International and Regional Partners
- Local Partners
PARTNERS & AFFILIATES

Affiliated Chambers

• The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
• The Association of East African Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (AEACCIA)
• The Islamic Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
• The American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, United States of America,
• The Iranian and the Russian Chambers
• The Commonwealth Business council
• CFT Chambers of Commerce
• OIC—Business Owners Union

International and Regional Partners

• East African Business Council (EABC)
• Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
• IGAD Business Forum (IBF)
• Trademark East Africa
• The Uganda – South Africa Business Council

Local Partners

• Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA)
• Uganda Investment Authority (UIA)
• Capital Markets Authority (CMA)
• National Planning Authority (NPA)
• Uganda Bureau of Standards (UNBS)
• Uganda Exports Promotion Board (UEPB)
• Uganda Registration Services Bureau
• Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI)
• Uganda National Bureau of Statistics (UNBS)
• Uganda National Council of Science and Technology
• PPDA—Public Procurement
• Commercial court / CADER (CENTRE FOR ABIRTRATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION)
• Ministry of Health—GAIN project and HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria component
• Ministry of Education
• National Council for Higher Education
• MTTI-QUISP (Quality Infrastructure and Standards Programme) and Cross Border Traders
• MOFPED
• Young Achievers Award Scheme
• Economic Policy Research Centre
• Secretariat for the Private Sector Forum
• Makerere University Private Sector Forum
• Makerere University Business School (MUBS) Entrepreneurship Centre
• Inter-University Council
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a vibrant organization focused on enhancing business opportunity. We are dedicated to ensuring our members take advantage of business opportunities locally, regionally and internationally.

The Chamber is here to help you prosper! We invite you to explore what the UNCCI has to offer you and your business. With a membership exceeding 10,000 and a district branch network all over Uganda, the Chamber is able to influence the decisions that affect business at local, national levels of government, and at regional & international levels. Internationally, we are affiliated and belong to a number of regional and multilateral institutions that support business such as the East African Business Council (EABC), the International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICC), to mention but a few.

We also work in close partnership with many other national chambers of commerce and industry, to promote the mutual business interests of our members. In addition to the Chamber’s role as an advocate for business, especially the over 3 million Small Business Enterprises (SMEs) in Uganda, the Chamber continues to bring Business to Business (B2B) networking opportunities and other benefits to our members in trade, as well as those in manufacturing and industry.

Your Chamber exists to promote entrepreneurship and job creation in Uganda, and ensure that Uganda is a great place to do business. Support a strong business voice, join our network and discover why the Chamber has been a cornerstone of the business community since 1933.

I thank you.

Mrs. Olive Z. Kigongo
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