



June 10, 2026

POSITION STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS OF UGANDA (AOGU) ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TRAINING AND INTERNSHIP POLICY

The Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Uganda (AOGU) has noted with concern the recently announced policy proposing the integration of internship training into undergraduate health professional education, with graduation occurring only after completion of internship.

As a professional association whose members serve as university faculty, clinical educators, internship supervisors, hospital leaders and consultants, AOGU fully supports efforts to strengthen the quality of health professional education and improve patient care. However, after careful review, we do not support implementation of the proposed policy in its current form.

AOGU believes that the policy blurs the distinction between academic qualification and professional licensure. Graduation signifies successful completion of an accredited academic programme, while internship is a period of supervised professional practice that prepares graduates for independent clinical work and professional registration. These are distinct processes that serve different purposes within the training pathway.

The proposed policy also raises important concerns regarding trainee welfare and financing. **Medical interns are an indispensable component of Uganda's health system and make substantial contributions to patient care and service delivery.** Requiring interns to undertake a mandatory year of supervised service without appropriate remuneration places an unfair burden on trainees and their families. AOGU believes that any internship programme that relies on trainees to deliver essential health services should provide appropriate remuneration and welfare support.

In addition, the policy has important implications for universities, internship training sites, current students, and the future health workforce. AOGU believes that reforms of this magnitude should be informed by evidence and developed through broad engagement with universities, professional associations, regulatory councils, students, internship supervisors, and other key stakeholders.

AOGU therefore calls upon the Government of Uganda, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Sports, and all relevant stakeholders to undertake comprehensive consultations and an evidence-informed review of the proposed policy before implementation.

Pending such consultation and resolution of the concerns outlined above, AOGU does not support implementation of the proposed policy.

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