



# UGANDA

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**STATEMENT  
BY  
HON. OKELLO ORYEM  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CHARGE OF  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**AT THE  
HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

**September 26, 2013**

**New York**

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**President of the General Assembly,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,**

On behalf of the Ugandan delegation, I would like to congratulate you upon assumption of the Presidency of the 68th Session UN General Assembly. My delegation assures you of our utmost support.

Uganda is a proponent of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. The proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction poses a serious threat to world peace and security more than ever before. Therefore, all efforts to build a better and safer world should be inspired by a shared vision and commitment to justice, equity, and peace. These efforts should also focus on promoting nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, reducing conflict and deepening mutual understanding and respect.

**Mr. President,**

Uganda welcomes the positive developments and renewed impetus by member states towards fulfilling obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), in particular the commitments set out in the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan, across all the three pillars namely non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

We would like to stress the need to adhere to the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency for nuclear disarmament. As long as some countries have nuclear weapons, there will be others who aspire to get them as a deterrent measure. This, no doubt, would lead to an arms race that increases the potential of proliferation.

The 2015 NPT Review Conference will provide another opportunity for monitoring the fulfillment by all States Parties of their commitments in the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan, including those by the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament.

**Mr. President,**

Non-nuclear states should be able to harness nuclear technology for a wide range of peaceful uses. The pressure exerted by the fast growing population on the renewable energy sources like hydro, geothermal, biomass, as well as from fossil fuels will lead to a point where they will be insufficient to meet the energy demand. This will ultimately necessitate the inclusion of other energy sources like nuclear energy in the energy mix which will also help in accelerating industrialization, mitigation of global warming and climate change effects.

Uganda established an Atomic Energy Council as the national regulatory authority by an Act of Parliament. The Council is actively carrying out its regulatory functions and comprehensive regulations on atomic energy applications have been promulgated, gazzeted and are being implemented.

While we welcome the signing of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the United States and the Russian Federation in 2012, the delayed entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a matter of concern.

We therefore consider it urgent that those member states, particularly the Annex II States, which are yet to ratify the CTBT do so in order to bring it into force.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again. The effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, would be grave and catastrophic. All efforts must be exerted to eliminate this threat. It is a shared responsibility of all States to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, to prevent their proliferation and to achieve nuclear disarmament, including through fulfilling the objectives of the NPT and achieving its universality.

It is therefore our collective responsibility to act in unison and ensure full compliance with all nuclear non-proliferation and

nuclear disarmament obligations and to deal with all those situations that threaten international peace and security.

I thank you for your attention.

