

**Statement by the Delegation of Uganda to the 6th Committee Plenary on the Agenda Item 110
"Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**

October 8, 2013

Presented by Ambassador Duncan Muhumuza Laki

Mr Chairman,

This being the first time my delegation is addressing the Committee, allow me to congratulate you and other members of the bureau upon your election, and to pledge my delegation's support for a successful outcome during the 68th session.

I would like to align my delegation with the statement made by Egypt on behalf of the African Group, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

We welcome the Secretary-General's report A/68/180 that provides an update by various stakeholders on the measures taken to eliminate international terrorism.

Mr Chairman,

Uganda condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, for whatever purpose and by whomsoever. Terrorism can never be justified under any pretext. We reiterate our position that in order to have a meaningful/successful fight against terrorism, we must be prepared to take the hard decisions, including assigning a comprehensive definition to terrorism. This is a minimum requirement that isolates terrorism; and thus differentiating it from other legitimate struggles.

The conditions under which terrorism thrives must be addressed before there can be any hope to ultimately eradicate the threat. In order to eradicate the problem, the root causes must be identified. This would enable the international community from concentrating on the symptoms. Accordingly, we call on the international community to address the root causes of terrorism. Poverty needs to be addressed as one of the conditions under which terrorism thrives.

Mr Chairman,

It would be absurd to associate terrorism with particular religious beliefs, race, or civilisation. Indeed no effort should be spared in dispelling such ill-premised tendencies. This calls for more education.

In our sub-region, Uganda, under the aegis of AMISOM has expended blood and treasure in the fight against one of the most dangerous terrorist outfits, the Al-Shabaab in Somalia. Al-Shabaab has taken advantage of the weak government structures and continues to force recruits into their ranks. We call on all the international community to assist in capacity building so that the AMISOM forces can continue unhindered on the course of pursuing the terrorist elements. We also call for assistance for the Government of Somalia so as to develop institutions which have the capacity to deal with the terrorist organisations that look at Somalia as a safe haven for their reprehensible criminal schemes. Our collective efforts should fundamentally aim at denying terrorists any havens, eradicating sources of terrorist financing, reducing state vulnerability, and enhancing emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Mr Chairman,

Uganda is no stranger to acts of terrorism of the most extreme kind. On June 8, 1998 a terrorist outfit, ironically calling itself the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacked school children while they slept, locked them in their dormitory, and set it on fire, killing 80 of them. ADF continues to operate from a neighbouring country, where as recent as July this year they reined havoc on a town in DRC, and that has resulted in 60,000 people fleeing to seek refuge in Uganda. In 2010, on July 11, in a twin terror attack on Kampala, the Al-Shabaab killed more than 70 innocent civilians.

We therefore stand in solidarity with the government and people of Kenya, and the government and people of Nigeria upon the recent heinous terrorist attacks in their brotherly countries which left scores of dead and maimed innocent persons.

Lastly Mr. Chairman,

Calls to address the issue of toxic waste dumping off the coast of Somalia, unfortunately, continue to be largely unheeded. The international community can only ignore this issue at its own peril because one day, the toxic waste dumping sites could be turned into ready arsenals by terrorists if they could recycle the material in their quest for weapons of mass destruction. These reprehensible dumping actions must stop and the culprits must be held accountable for their indiscretions. Moreover, the responsible parties must be required to clean up their mess.

I thank you.