

**Statement by the Delegation of Uganda to the 6th Committee
Agenda Item 108 - "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**

October 12, 2015

Presented by Ambassador Duncan Muhumuza Laki

Mr Chairman,

Like other speakers before me, I take this opportunity to congratulate Amb. Eden Charles of Trinidad and Tobago, and other members of the Bureau upon election, and pledge my delegation's support for a successful outcome during the 70th session.

I would like to align my delegation with the statements made by South Africa on behalf of the African Group, and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We welcome the Secretary-General's report 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. Uganda condemns the abhorrent acts of hostage taking which terrorist organisations use to raise funds. The use of the internet and social media to lure and recruit unsuspecting young people into terrorist organisations has reached alarming levels, leading to the realization that nobody is immune to the reach of the terrorists. Yet international law and the basic rights and freedoms under international law must be upheld in our collective effort to deny terrorist a foothold anywhere around the globe.

We must collectively engage in efforts aimed at denying terrorists any safe havens. Such collective efforts with our partners in the East African Community have led to the arrest of Jamil Mukulu, the leader of the so-called Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) a vicious terrorist outfit fashioned along the ideals of Al Qaeda. It is this ADF that has hitherto visited mayhem on some parts of the country, and in one gruesome incident, they locked up a dormitory of a boys' tertiary college, while the students were sleeping, and set it on fire, killing more than sixty of them. Even as I deliver this statement, Jamil Mukulu is in custody and awaits trial under Uganda's legal system. Needless to mention, he has been accorded all the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of Uganda. I cite this particular case to underscore the fact that even in the most despicable of situations, Uganda will uphold the rule of law.

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 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 and appropriately addressed. It would be ill-advised to engage in chest-thumping upon attaining victory in occasional engagements with terrorists. While this is obviously good for boosting morale, it would not lead to ultimate

victory in the over-all fight against terrorism. More is needed to be done rather than concentrating on the symptoms. We therefore consider that it is important to address the root causes of terrorism. Poverty needs to be addressed as one of the conditions under which terrorism thrives. To this end, Uganda is preoccupied with wealth creation at household level through value addition, rather than concentrating on the export of raw materials. Value addition creates jobs, as well as enabling the producers to get more income from their products.

We must collectively engage in efforts aimed at denying terrorists any havens, eradicating sources of terrorist financing, reducing state vulnerability, and enhancing emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Under the auspices of the African Union, Uganda is the biggest contributor to the AMISOM forces, and in that capacity Uganda has been at the forefront of fighting the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. In many situations, terrorists take advantage of weak government structures in order to force recruits into their ranks. Accordingly all efforts should be stepped up with assistance to 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 activities.

Mr Chairman,

Under the auspices of AMISOM, Uganda continues to fight Al-Shabaab terrorist who only recently set on fire a University in North Eastern Kenya killing a multitude of unsuspecting students in the middle of the night.

Lastly Mr. Chairman,

We reiterate our call to address the issue of toxic waste dumping off the coast of Somalia. Even though, we have shouted ourselves hoarse over this matter, unfortunately, the appeals continue to be largely unheeded. We promise not to grow weary until this matter, with its wide-ranging ramifications is addressed comprehensively. 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 to obtain 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.