STATEMENT TO THE 77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 111 "MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM" BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR ADONIA AYEBARE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Uganda delegation. At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election to steer the work of the Sixth Committee. You can count on Uganda's strong cooperation and support throughout the work of the Sixth Committee.

My Delegation aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the African Group, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" contained in document A/76/201.

Chairperson,

Uganda condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it occurs, 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 of terrorism. This is a minimum requirement that would isolate terrorism; and thus, differentiate it from other legitimate struggles.

My delegation fully appreciates and supports the work done so far by the *Ad hoc Committee* in drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We reiterate the importance of the conclusion of the CCIT and the continued effort to that end. We welcome the resumption of the informal consultations on the outstanding issues relating to the draft Convention, and we further call upon all Member States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues.

My delegation stands ready to work actively with other delegations to achieve consensus regarding the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. In view of this, the African Group supports the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and we believe that the proposal should be given serious consideration.

Chairperson,

Uganda has been engaged in the fight against terrorism for a long time, whether it's against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA); the so-called Allied Democratic Forces (ADF); and the Al-Shabab in Somalia, Ugandan men and women of the Uganda People's Defence Forces have been leading at the frontline. The LRA was defeated and routed out of Ugandan territory, but unfortunately continues to cause wanton suffering in the Central African Region.

In this regard, 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. We therefore call for enhanced international cooperation and partnership in the fight against terrorism. We therefore urge the international community to strengthen coordination in efforts to bolster the multilateral mechanisms for addressing terrosism.

In conclusion Chairperson,

For the last three years, the world has been grappling with the disastrous impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. Never, in modern times, has the whole world suffered the impact of a pandemic so severe and so widespread as the ongoing Covid-19 global pandemic. In this most challenging time in the history of the United Nations, it is crucial for us to address existing, new and emerging issues of collective concern and interest to us all. These include the economic impact of the pandemic on our Member States and developing countries more generally; the disruption of health systems, global supply chains and international travel which threaten to increase the conditions that breed terrorism.

I thank you.