UGANDA

Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations New York

Tel: (212) 949-0110
Fax: (212) 687-4517

STATEMENT BY

H.E. AMB. FRANCIS K. BUTAGIRA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE 62ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

New York, 16 October, 2007 Please Check against Delivery
Mr. Chairman,
Permit me on behalf of Uganda delegation to congratulate you upon your well-deserved election to the high office of Chairman of the First Committee of the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. Equally we congratulate all the other members of the bureau upon their respective elections. Our hearty congratulations too, go to Ambassador Sergio de Queiroz Duarte on his recent appointment as the High Representative, Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA). We remain confident that you will bring your rich experience at diplomacy to steer the work of the Committee and its proceedings, to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

Uganda would like to associate herself with the sentiments of Indonesia and Nigeria on behalf of NAM and the African Group respectively, echoed last week, while re-affirming her sincere belief in the promotion of International Peace and Stability based on the unequivocal principles of undiminished security for all states. Consequently, Uganda remains strongly committed to the achievement of general and complete disarmament under the auspices of international management and control with a view to pursuing the goals of non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in all its aspects. We do believe that multi-lateralism in the disarmament agenda, is the only viable road-map to a peaceful and secure future free from nuclear weapons. The fundamental pillars of NPT i.e. disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, should be given equal and balanced treatment.

Mr. Chairman,

Uganda welcomes the strides made in the preparation for the 2010 NPT Review Conference and we are confident that it will be possible to build on the outcome of the First Preparatory Commission for this conference held in Vienna in May this year. This is especially so, given the fact that the relationship between disarmament and development cannot be ignored; the reason why their linkage remains quite vivid.

While we welcome the report of the Working Group of Government Experts on Illicit Brokering, we re-affirm Uganda’s support to the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, especially now that we have ably dealt with Lord Resistance Army banditry in the Northern part of the country and the so-called Allied Democratic Forces band try outfit in the west. In this vein, we shall continue to play a leading role amongst the Eastern and Horn of African countries that are signatories to the Nairobi Declaration on the problem of proliferation of small arms and light weapons within the Great Lakes Region.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, Uganda being a country which has painfully endured the effects of internal strife over the years under review, it only remains prudent that a loud call be made to the International Community and donors to devise appropriate mechanisms within the framework of International Law, of meeting their part of the bargain. We are optimistic that positive results shall come out much sooner than later to save the world of yet another tragedy.

I thank you.