STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
65TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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New York, October 08, 2010
Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you and members of the bureau upon your election to guide the work of this Committee. I assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by Nigeria and Indonesia on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement respectively.

Uganda attaches great importance to Disarmament and Non-proliferation, and is committed to the international, regional and sub-regional efforts in this regard.

There have been significant achievements this year including the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and Russia.

We welcome the successful outcome of the NPT Review Conference in May 2010. It is important to intensify concerted efforts towards implementation of the Action Plan proposed by the Secretary-General.

Nuclear weapons continue to pose a serious threat to humanity. It is only through taking concrete and practical steps towards disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons that we can achieve durable peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

At a historic Security Council Summit in September last year, world leaders adopted a declaration that included the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, as well as concerted action against illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. It is essential to build on these efforts and momentum to achieve further progress in the entire disarmament process.

However, we are disappointed by the pace of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We believe that delegates to the First Committee gathered here can mobilize the trust and confidence needed for progress towards the desired goals. On matters like threats posed by nuclear weapons, which affect our existence no nation should be allowed to obstruct the interest of the entire international community.

Mr. Chairman,

Although conventional weapons do not have the same potency for destruction as nuclear weapons, we have seen in many parts of the world the suffering and destruction they have caused. The use of small arms in conflicts, and in acts of piracy has a destabilizing effect on countries, regions and international peace and security.
Africa has had bitter experiences resulting from conflicts perpetuated by illicit small arms and light weapons. The countries of the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa are implementing a strategy that reinforces and complements national, regional and global efforts in preventing and combating the proliferation of illicit arms.

We call upon the United Nations and the wider international community to support regional and sub-regional disarmament initiatives. More collective action is needed to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Uganda welcomes the renewed global attention to the need for further progress towards disarmament and a nuclear free world. The framework for disarmament and non-proliferation must be supported by a strong system of verification, compliance and full implementation. This will require strong political will by the nuclear weapon states to dismantle their arsenals, and work together to ensure full compliance.

The United Nations and the international community should enhance support to the national, regional and sub-regional disarmament initiatives and efforts.

It is important that this meeting agrees on outcomes and resolutions that will help create a breakthrough and take the negotiations process on Disarmament and non-proliferation to another level. I thank you.