



**UGANDA**

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**STATEMENT BY**

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**TO THE  
60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**New York,  
September 21, 2005**

**Please Check Against Delivery**

**Mr. President,  
Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election to preside over this important Session of the General Assembly during which we pledge our full cooperation. I wish to thank** your predecessor H.E. Mr. Jean Ping for having conducted so efficiently the proceedings of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session and spearheaded the vital negotiations on the outcome document adopted by **the Summit (A/60/L.1).**

**I also wish to express my** gratitude to the Secretary-General for his leadership and especially for his efforts to reform the United Nations to make it more responsive to the dynamics and demands of the current world.

**Mr. President,**

The founding fathers of the United Nations dreamed of an organisation, in the words of the Charter, that was able to "promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom." It is in pursuit of this dream that the 55th Session of the General Assembly adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This was a milestone in the realization of one of the purposes and principles of the Charter which is, "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all..." and "to be the centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attainment of **these common ends.**"

**Since the Millennium Summit in 2000, a lot has been done, both at National and International levels to attain** the objectives we set ourselves in the MDGs. Asia and Latin America have progressed well while Oceania and Africa have not been quite successful. On the whole African performance has shown mixed results. Some regions especially the **North** have registered positive achievements while others have fared negatively.

In a globalized world the future and welfare of all is interlinked. Poverty in one part threatens peace and security globally. Equally an epidemic in a remote village in Africa, threatens the health of the prosperous individual in New York. In essence we all share a common fate. The international community therefore has

a self-interested obligation to help Africa emerge from her present predicament. Let the wealth of some enhance the welfare of all.

Uganda hopes that the World Summit Outcome document marks a real commitment to improve the welfare of the world's poor and to make the United Nations the vanguard for the aspirations of all. We hope it won't suffer the fate of commitments that preceded it.

**Mr. President,**

Peace and security is a prerequisite for development. One of the reasons Africa has failed to attain substantial achievements on MDGs is lack of stability, peace and security. Conflicts, wars and civil strife afflicting the continent have acted as disincentives to development.

The Berlin Conference split up Africa without due regard to the long term interests of the African peoples. The Great Lakes Region found itself at the confluence of all colonial powers. This confluence created a political and social situation that has over the years proved difficult to manage. It is a complex situation with both positive and negative tendencies. The cold war further exacerbated the situation as the east battled the West for influence. Indeed former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld lost his life in this explosive political mix. As Africa struggles to set her house in order Uganda has identified four main causes of conflict on the Continent which negative forces have exploited for their own ends. They include:

- Parasitic vested interests.
- Superficiality and obscurantism in identifying and dealing with the parasitic interests and their effects on a particular country or group of countries.
- Weak and disoriented local leadership, and
- The pre-industrial characteristics of Africa.

These and others are core causes of conflict. A clear and careful attention to them can form a vital springboard from which long-term solutions can be found.

The conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Great Lakes region in general is caused by a combination of these factors. The failure of the Congolese leadership to consolidate independence in 1960 and the eventual UN intervention that was a failure contributed to the present chaos that is slowly eating away at the nationhood of that country and threatening regional stability. Forty-five years ago the UN failed the people of Congo. Today we see a recurrence of a similar situation. Those with the most to lose in the DRC are marginalized while the real issues of statecraft have been pushed to the periphery. No attention is being given to creating institutions and infrastructure that can sustain the State.

The integration of armed factions into one single national armed force is a half – hearted exercise. How can a State exist without minimum pillars such as an army capable of defending its territorial integrity?

The advice that justice should precede integration is wrong. While justice is important, it is Uganda's belief that it should not take precedence over integration of armed groups. We should integrate all factions and then seek to punish those that are guilty of any offences later. Uganda advocates for the concept of provisional immunity or "immunitate provisoire". On the other hand equal attention needs to be given to issues of development, rehabilitation and recovery of the economy. A growing economy is necessary for sustainable peace. What we are witnessing today is a rush to elections and political agendas without due regard being given to the institutions and infrastructure necessary for long-term sustainability of peace. We have travelled this road before, with disastrous consequences. Let the immediate past of the Continent be a guiding lesson to us.

The Lusaka peace accord provided a strong mechanism for the region and the DRC to play complimentary roles in the peace process. Unfortunately it has been abandoned. The central problem of negative forces that the agreement recognized has been put on the back of the agenda. MONUC for over five years has made no significant effort to ensure demobilization, and disarmament of these groups thus leaving in place the seeds for future conflict. We are however hopeful that our efforts both at a bilateral level and through the Tripartite Commission composed of Uganda, Rwanda, the DRC and Burundi will iron out these problems and allow our region to attain peace and stability.

**Mr. President,**

For sometime now the situation in Burundi has been a real concern to the Great Lakes region and the International Community. The destruction and loss of life that took place, spurred the regional states together with South Africa to undertake and spearhead a peace initiative. It was a long and arduous process. With the support of the UN and the International community signs of success are today evident. The people of Burundi have in the past few months elected their leaders in local, parliamentary and finally Presidential elections. They look to the future with hope. Uganda welcomes H.E. Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, the new president. We look forward to working with him to consolidate the peace. The International Community and the United Nations have an obligation to make peace sustainable. Reconstruction, rehabilitation and development shall be necessary. We hope that due attention shall be given to institutional capacity building so that Burundi does not relapse into the fratricidal anarchy that has been its bane over the past decade.

**Mr. President,**

After two decades of conflict in Southern Sudan the people of the Sudan led by the Government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and Army (SPLM/A) signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) early this year. The guns are silent and the long tortured people of Southern Sudan are now enjoying some peace. It is unfortunate that the late Col. John Garang passed away at a time when the process of implementation of the CPA was in its early stages. We are confident that given the commitment of both the government of the Sudan and SPLM, the peace agreement will hold and be comprehensively implemented. We are also confident that the Sudan is headed for a peaceful future. We hope that other conflicts such as Darfur will be peacefully resolved using the CPA as both an inspiration and a model.

**Mr. President,**

The signature and implementation of the CPA in Sudan has led to increased optimism for peace in Northern Uganda. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a terrorist group that has for long maimed, kidnapped and terrorised the civilian population of Northern Uganda, has for a long time had sanctuaries in Southern Sudan from where it has launched its terrorist activities. With cooperation of the Sudanese government including SPLM/A in the south, these terrorists are being flushed out from Southern Sudan. Uganda's strategy of peace negotiations combined with maximum military pressure has significantly reduced the LRA's capacity to commit evil. However as peace returns to the region, we need international cooperation and assistance to supplement the Government of Uganda's Post-conflict Humanitarian, Rehabilitation and Development Program already underway in Northern Uganda.

**Mr. President,**

Somalia has been in a state of anarchy for over a decade and half. Peace efforts by the international community and the United Nations have been anything but timid. A sense of frustration on the part of the latter has led to resignation and despair thus condemning the Somali people to a state of bondage and hostage by the warlords. It is in this void that the Regional States under IGAD took on the mantle to negotiate peace and re-establish order. Anarchy is contagious. We cannot feel safe with a situation pregnant with arms trafficking, religious extremism, dumping of radioactive waste and a potential for breeding terrorists in the region. These are realistic threats that IGAD cannot ignore. The International Community and most especially the members of UN Security Council should not be deluded by geographical distance. A potential threat to international peace and security exists.

It is in view of these actual and latent threats that members of IGAD took it upon themselves to negotiate peace for Somalia. Over a period of two years we went through a very laborious and sometimes frustrating negotiating process until agreement was reached on formation of a government of national unity last year. At the end of this process, we expected the UN Security Council to join us in the pursuit of peace. We expected that all efforts would be geared towards creating the necessary atmosphere both legal and political to facilitate the realization of peace for the long-suffering people of Somalia. We were however deeply disappointed when the Council in its wisdom acted otherwise, leaving the region and most importantly the Somali people to their own fate. The decision to uphold the arms embargo and even refuse its partial lifting denied the region a chance to implement the peace process to its logical end. We hope that it is not too late for the Council to evaluate and review its position.

As H.E. Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, President of the Republic of Somalia said before this August Assembly last week,

Quote:

"It does not make any sense to the rational mind to help Somalis reach a comprehensive political settlement for their long conflict, while at the same time denying them the ability to build the institutions through which they would overcome lawlessness in their country." Unquote

**Mr. President,**

We have travelled a long way in search of peace and stability on the continent. As we slowly attain this goal of solving some of the once intractable conflicts in the Great Lakes region including Sudan, Burundi and Somalia, we have major lessons to learn. Key among these are:

- I. First and foremost any political problem should be solved by citizens of the concerned country following democratic principles and guided by the belief in equality of all persons before the law.
- II. If the citizens of that country cannot solve the problem, then the region should come in. In the case of the Great Lakes Region that will include the East African Community, SADC and IGAD.
- III. The African Union should bless the process.
- IV. It is only, then, that International bodies such as the UN, can come into the process.

The advantages involved in this deliberate process are; first it draws on the reservoir of knowledge about the problem. Secondly the key stakeholders

participate in it and have the incentive and motivation to succeed. Lastly there is international solidarity especially on the issue of resources.

**Mr. President,**

Let me briefly make some comments on the proposed reforms of the United Nations. The Institution we have today was conceived and created sixty years ago. The sense of triumphalism of the victors in the Second World War, the anguish of the vanquished and the assumed indifference of the colonial peoples especially in Africa formed the background to the run up to the creation of the United Nations. The institution that emerged reflected these realities. Nowhere within these United Nations was this more apparent than in the Security Council. The victors reserved themselves the process to determine the destiny of others. This was done without due regard to interests of those the decisions were to affect most. Today the situation has dramatically changed. Colonial peoples have gained independence and the international power structure has changed. Decisions of the Security Council need wider support, diplomatically, financially and militarily to be implemented. It has therefore become an imperative to reform the Security Council and make it more representative and reflective of the realities of today's world,

In Africa where most UN Security Council mandated operations take place we believe that it is time for the continent composed of 54 States to have a real say in how these operations are formulated and implemented. Today Africa is the only continent that has no representation at the real decision making level of the Council. It is for this reason that we demand that the continent be given two permanent seats with veto powers and two additional non-permanent seats. A Council, thus composed will be more democratic, credible and will have its decisions more widely accepted.

**Mr. President,**

While the dream of the founding fathers of the United Nations was "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war", conflicts remain a reality in today's world. For sixty years the United Nations has failed to live up to this expectation. Uganda therefore welcomes the establishment of the Peace Building Commission and a peace building support office. We hope that the December 31st 2005 deadline will be met to enable these vital organs help the United Nations effectively address conflict and make peace more sustainable. In the same vain we support the establishment of the Democracy Fund which should be used to support countries' home-grown institutions and not as a mechanism to import foreign brands of democracy.

My delegation is cognisant of the primary responsibility of States to protect their own. In case of failure, the international community has a "responsibility to protect", to prevent genocide and ethnic cleansing. However this responsibility should be clearly defined and should have prior authorization of the Security Council.

We believe that the commitment of our leaders to support a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organisations will help expand the capacity of the international community to handle the old and new challenges facing the world. Indeed regional organisations that have a capacity for prevention of armed conflict or peacekeeping should use it to enhance the United Nations in this field.

**Mr. President,**

The existing Human Rights Commission has been deficient in its performance over the years. We believe that it is time to create an independent institution with an effective and clear mandate to handle Human Rights. The proposal to create a Human Rights Council is timely. We hope that all the necessary details will be agreed upon so that this Council can be launched.

In conclusion, Mr. President, allow me to restate Uganda's commitment to the ideals and principles of the United Nations. It has served us relatively well over the years. It is capable of even serving us better and achieving the dreams and ideals of the framers of the Charter sixty years ago. This can only happen if we take the bold step to adopt the far-reaching innovative reforms proposed by the Secretary-General and to fully implement the Outcome Document.

I thank you.