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STATEMENT BY

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TO

**THE 62ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, October 1, 2007

Please Check against Delivery

The President of the United Nations General Assembly,
The Secretary General of the United Nations,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your election to preside over this session of the General Assembly. I wish to thank most sincerely your predecessor Her Excellency, Madame Sheikha Haya Rashed Khalifa of Bahrain for the able manner in which she handled the vital business of the 61st Session.

I also wish to express my gratitude to Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for his leadership of our organization and most especially for his untiring efforts in favour of conflict resolution and peace on the African continent and elsewhere.

Mr. President,

Sixty Two Years ago the founding fathers of the United Nations came together, determined to, in the words of the Charter:

Quote: To Employ international machinery for promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.
Unquote.

The organization they created was to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends. To-day humankind is faced with a common threat in the form of climate change. Your choice of "Responding to climate change" as the theme for this Session is timely. It will help draw attention to the global challenge for which no single country has a solution. It is only through concerted and sustained international co-operation that action to combat its effects and further escalation can be made.

There is no doubt that climate change is the biggest danger facing humankind especially, the poor. The threat of extreme conditions including floods and droughts is a major concern. It has many implications for development, particularly for the agrarian communities with fewer resources to cope with additional stresses and shocks brought about by this phenomenon. The increasing frequency and severity of prolonged droughts threaten water supplies to millions of people in poor countries as well as agriculture which is overwhelmingly subsistence and rainfed and therefore vulnerable to climate variability and change. The vulnerability of the health sector has also been evident as frequent floods result in outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, dysentery and increased incidences of malaria.

Indeed climate change today constitutes a danger to human security considering the effects of climate change on the very existence of some small island states and coastal cities as well as the devastations of hurricanes and typhoons.

Mr. President,

Several years ago the world was alerted to this danger of climate change. Under the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) a number of actions were agreed. We all accepted to undertake a three pronged approach including development, access to appropriate technology,

mitigation and adaptation. It is unfortunate that so far no meaningful actions have been undertaken to implement these agreed interventions.

My delegation believes that the time is now to implement these high priority activities. We should, however, recognize that responding to climatic change will require political leadership at all levels starting from the centre and extending to the grassroots. Increasing collaborative action on adaptation is urgently needed so that vulnerable countries and communities can cope with the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Re-afforestation efforts and control of greenhouse gas emissions are urgent actions that we can undertake together. However re-afforestation on its own will not produce the desired results without adequate investment in renewable energy sources as a measure against massive depletion of forests for fuel. Developed countries should encourage companies to invest in hydro-electric power generation and other clean energy sources in developing countries. For such projects to be undertaken, a successful 15th International Development Agency (IDA) replenishment is critical. We all must learn to safeguard and use available resources sparingly for the sake of future generations.

Uganda considers the Conference on climate change to be held in Bali, Indonesia this December, as critical in the development of a long term response to climate change. It is an opportunity to begin concrete negotiations on a global strategy that is acceptable to all and implementable. Prior to Bali, however, this assembly should agree on guiding principles that can help bring together all relevant aspects of the problem. The industrialized countries should take the lead in cutting emissions, while developing countries will have to pursue low-emissions development strategies and benefit from incentives to limit emissions and assistance for adaptation. We must commit ourselves to an approach that balances adaptation and mitigation underpinned by adequate financing arrangements and investments in new and innovative technologies.

Mr. President,

As members of the United Nations our countries share a vision of better standards of life in larger freedom as contained in the charter. We are, however, challenged by the persistence of poverty in many of our countries. Recent statistics indicate that, worldwide, 1.2 billion people live on one dollar a day while 2.8 billion survive on less than two dollars. The gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen both within states and among states. The World Bank reported in 2003 that "average income in the wealthiest twenty countries is thirty seven times that of the poorest twenty – twice the ratio in 1970." Many countries especially in sub-Saharan Africa ended the last decade with lower per-capita incomes than at its beginning. Poverty is one of the biggest threats to international peace and security and to the environment.

At the Millennium Summit, world leaders expressed determination to halve world poverty by 2015. The mid-point progress report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) that was released in July this year indicates that countries in Africa and elsewhere are proving that large scale progress in achieving the MDG's is possible under conditions of adequate financing, much of which should flow from a strengthened global partnership for development. It is critical that the Monterrey targets are met.

Mr. President,

As we respond to climate change, the fight against poverty remains an integral part of the effort. Unless we address poverty in developing countries, the poor will continue to destroy the environment by cutting trees for firewood and poor agricultural practices.

There are time-tested ways to bring people out of poverty. Trade liberalization and export-led growth have the potential to lift millions out of poverty. However to benefit from trade, developing countries must add value to their raw materials and sell them as finished products taking advantage of appropriate value chains. This will not only increase earnings but create jobs; thus ending the mass migrations to the developed countries. They should develop their human resources through education and better health services. Education is a critical factor in transforming society. An educated middle class with adequate income to spend is critical for industrialization and transition. It has happened in some countries of South East Asia. It can happen elsewhere in the developing world. As a priority agriculture needs to be commercialized. Related to this is the urgent need for regional integration to enlarge markets.

Under heavy pressure many developing countries have removed trade barriers while the developed countries have not reciprocated in key areas such as agriculture and textiles where the former have a comparative advantage. Isn't it absurd that a cow in the European Union gets a daily subsidy of US\$2.2 while 40% of the world population lives on less than US\$2 per day? The World Bank estimates that protectionism by the developed world costs developing countries US\$ 100 billion annually. A fair system will require appropriate measures to deal with the unfair trade privileges of developed countries which hinder market access. It is vital that the stalled trade talks under the Doha Development Round are resumed and successfully concluded.

Mr. President,

Peace and Security are necessary conditions for sustainable development. The rise in inter and intra-State conflict has been the hallmark of the post cold war era. Internal conflicts have spilled over borders to create regional instability. Internal displacement have taken place and equally alarming has been the international refugee crisis that has resulted from such conflicts. In some countries central authority has collapsed creating havens for terrorists and drug traffickers with the attendant threats to international peace and security. No meaningful actions against poverty and in favour of environment protection can take place in such an atmosphere.

Most of Africa is now peaceful and democracy is being consolidated through regular elections, observance of human rights and constitutionalism. However, there are some areas that require urgent international attention. There is need to ensure peace and stability in Darfur in accordance with the internationally agreed framework under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1769/2007. Further attention should be given to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM). In Somalia the General Assembly should support an all inclusive peace and reconciliation process and AMISOM with the necessary resources to facilitate the peacekeepers. Uganda has met her pledge of troops for peacekeeping. We call on other countries that made similar pledges to fulfill them. The International effort in Somalia should focus on capacity building to empower the Somali people to solve their problems. We also call on the Secretary-General to finalize plans for possible deployment of a United Nations Peacekeepers to replace AMISOM as called for by Security Council Resolution 1772/2007.

Mr. President,

In the Great Lakes Region various efforts are under way to improve peace and security and to create a conducive atmosphere for development. Through the Tripartite Plus One Commission, bringing together the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi we have agreed on a framework and actions to deal with negative forces which pose a threat to peace and security in the region. In this regard, we refer to Chapter VII of the UN Charter and to

provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 1756. The Security Council should reinforce the Mandate and the means of UN Mission in DRC (MONUC) to enable them effectively work with Congolese Armed Forces to totally eradicate the threat of negative forces operating on the DRC territory.

In Northern Uganda we are holding peace talks with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Of the five Agenda items, two Agreements have been concluded and signed. These are the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the Agreement on Comprehensive Solutions. However, the LRA has not met any of the terms of the very first Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities. For example, it is stipulated that LRA forces assemble at Ri-Kwangba in Southern Sudan. They have however not done this. They are still camped in Garamba National park in the DRC. We urge the international community to bring adequate pressure to bear on the LRA to assemble at Ri-Kwangba and to put a timeframe on the talks. Talks cannot go on forever. As we inch towards a comprehensive peace agreement, international support and understanding is required to balance the need for durable peace and stability on one hand and the imperative for justice on the other.

I wish to assure the General Assembly that Uganda is fully aware of her obligations under the Rome Statute and can not undermine it. She can not condone impunity. To this end we are working closely with ICC to ensure accountability under the complementarity stipulations.

Uganda will be convening a Consultative Group Meeting later this year to mobilize resources and coordinate actions for the Post Conflict Reconciliation Programme in Northern Uganda. The International Community is invited to support this Programme.

Mr. President,

When you chose "Responding to Climate Change" as the Theme, I believe you had in mind the intention to have this Session consider and recommend ways of addressing this common threat. You believed, as indeed we do, that a world that pays no attention to this problem is fatally damaging the interests of future generations. Addressing climate change will involve fighting poverty, ensuring peace and security and investment in clean energy especially sources in developing countries. This Session should be the turning point at which we all came together and agreed on ways to save our planet.

I thank you.