

7 January 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,  
President of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
on the terrorist attack in France**

*Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly*

H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the General Assembly (PGA), condemns in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack against the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, which took place in Paris, France today, 7 January 2015.

The President of the General Assembly conveys his deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of this deplorable act and to their families, and to the people and the Government of France. President Kutesa expresses the solidarity of the United Nations General Assembly with the people and Government of France in this difficult moment.

The President reiterates that freedom of expression and freedom of press are fundamental rights and an essential pillar of democratic societies and good governance. Every effort must be made to ensure that journalists can do their work in a safe and enabling environment and that crimes against them are prosecuted.

The President of the General Assembly reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation wherever, whenever and by whomsoever commits it. He calls on the international community to redouble efforts in the fight against the scourge of terrorism.