

**UGANDA'S STATEMENT TO THE 6TH COMMITTEE
71ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL-ASSEMBLY
PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR DUNCAN MUHUMUZA LAKI
(AGENDA ITEM 109)
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

4th October 2016

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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau upon your election. Be assured of my delegation's full support as you guide the Committee towards the successful conclusion of its work.

First, let me align my delegation with the statement of South Africa on behalf of the African Group, and the statement of Iran on behalf of the NAM.

Mr. Chairman,

Uganda condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it manifests, for whatever purpose and by whomsoever. Terrorism can never be justified under any circumstance.

As the only International Body with near universal membership, my delegation believes that the United Nations is best suited to coordinate the efforts to fight international terrorism. Efforts of the UN will be appropriately complemented by regional as well as sub-regional Organisations, and national initiatives. National efforts need to be supported by the provision of the required resources. Through the use of the Anti-Money Laundering legislation, a lot has been done in fighting terrorist financing.

Mr. Chairman,

As you may be aware, over the years, our forces have successfully driven terrorists groups out of Ugandan territory. Unfortunately remnants continue to operate from neighbouring countries. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is on the run in the Central African Republic (CAR); while the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) is scattered in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We call upon all States to cooperate so that the remnants of the LRA, and the ADF may be eradicated. Such cooperation led to the arrest of Mr. Dominic Ongwen, a senior commander of the LRA, who is standing trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity before the ICC in The Hague.

With similar cooperation and information sharing between neighbouring countries, we have been able to capture Jamil Mukulu, the head of the ADF, a heinous outfit that has been reigning mayhem indiscriminately on the Ugandan population, as well as eastern region of Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It may be recalled that in 1998, ADF attacked a

boys' tertiary college and set it on fire, killing 80 students. Jamil Mukulu has finally been put on trial in the Courts of law. Needless to mention, he has been accorded all the immunities and privileges due to accused persons under the Laws of Uganda.

Mr. Chairman,

As you are no doubt aware, Uganda under the auspices of AMISOM has played a central role in fighting Al Shabab, a terrorist group that has caused a lot of mayhem in Somalia, and the sub-region. Somalia is now on its own feet and beginning to reclaim her rightful position within the international community. Uganda will not relent in her efforts to continue fighting Al Shabab and its affiliates.

We commend the work of the ad hoc committee in drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. This will go a long way in the fight against terrorism, and therefore all outstanding issues should be resolved so that the international community can then avail itself of a major tool in this struggle.

Mr. Chairman,

While commending the work of the 1540 Committee in the prevention of terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, we are concerned that the toxic waste dump off the Indian Ocean coast of Somalia could very easily constitute an arsenal for terrorists in their quest for weapons of mass destruction. It is our conviction that only real progress in the global nuclear disarmament process will be a total safeguard that nuclear arms will not be available to terrorist groups. Unfortunately however, the positive intentions of the 1540 Committee are seriously undermined by the reprehensible dumping of toxic waste material as is the case of the coast of Somalia. This could pose the greatest danger of nuclear terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

We reiterate our position that in order to have a meaningful/successful fight against terrorism, we must be prepared to take the hard decisions, including assigning a comprehensive definition to terrorism. This would expose terrorists for what they are, as it would no longer be tenable for them to hide under the cover of legitimate struggle. We continue to call for the identification of the conditions under which terrorism thrives with a view to removing them before we can hope to ultimately eradicate the threat. In addition, the root-causes of terrorism need to be comprehensively addressed.

Mr. Chairman,

As I conclude, let me avail myself of this opportunity, to assure you of my delegation's cooperation in order to achieve positive results in the work of this Committee.

I thank you.