REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT
BY
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OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATION OF UGANDA
DURING THE DEBATE ON THE AGENDA ITEM
"MEASURES TO ELIMINATE TERRORISM"
6th COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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1. I thank you Chair for the excellent way you are conducting the 78th Session of the 6th Committee. Uganda aligns itself to the statements made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the African Group and wishes to make the following remarks in national capacity:

2. Mr. President, Uganda strongly and unequivocally condemns the terrorist attack in turkiye, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomever, against whomever they are committed, including State terrorism. We reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Any act of terrorism is a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law. Uganda recognizes states non-derogable obligation as it relates to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the UN Charter.

3. Uganda is concerned that the 8th Review resolution failed to include a reference to the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, which was proclaimed based on a recent General Assembly consensus resolution. My delegation welcomes the decision to convene the 9th Review of the Strategy In 2026 which wil coincide with the 20th anniversary of the launching of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. Uganda hopes we will be able during the next review of the strategy to engage more effectively and with a spirit of consensus and compromise to realize a review document that is more reflective of the concerns and priorities of Member-States, while learning from the shortfalls from previous reviews.

4. Uganda is deeply concerned about the scourge of terrorism and the scale of its effect on the continent. Over 60% of global terrorism fatalities in 2022 are reported to have emanated from Africa, orchestrated by terrorist groups such as Boko Haram; Al-Shabab; the ADF; JNIM and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), among others.

5. According to the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, between 01 January to 31 July 2023 there were 1,533 terrorist attacks resulting in 8,446 deaths across the continent. This is reported to have been higher than those recorded in the same period in 2022. The Sahel region accounted for 35% of global terrorism fatalities in 2021 as compared to 1% in 2007.

6. The Great lakes region has not been spared either. The ADF launched an attack in Uganda on 17 June 2023 killing 42 people including 37 children. It is activities of terrorist groups, such as these, that necessitated Uganda to engage in joint operations with the DRC against the ADF. It is likely that the attack on innocent children was aimed at the false hope of dissuading our forces from further pursuing them in the DRC. We are more determined to hold them to account. ***We agree that negative forces can easily be defeated if all Partners in the region cooperate and work together to locate; deny them sanctuary; and or eliminate them.***

7. Over time Africa has deployed Peace Support Operations (PSOs) in the spirit of African solutions to Africa's problems. However, these PSOs, have been bedevilled with financial constraints which often limit their ability to effectively implement their respective mandates. The UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Whatever the AU does at the regional level, is done for, and on, behalf of the UNSC. ***We therefore call for financing Peace Support Operations through the use of UN Assessed contributions.***

8. We are concerned about the increasing use of ICT technologies, including the internet in conflict situations. Quite often, inappropriate use of these technologies has resulted in destruction of critical infrastructure, spread of terrorism and other harmful propaganda to influencing domestic politics and engaging in subversion to destabilize governments. It is important to regulate the management of cyber space with the view to ensuring that it does not constitute a threat to national, regional and international peace and security.

9. We wish to make the following recommendations:

(i) There is need for International Partners to take appropriate measures to ensure that their respective territories are not used by terrorists for the preparation, financing, or organization of terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens

(ii) There is need to address the underlying root causes and structural drivers associated with Youth participation in violence including redressing the socio-economic imbalances that exist, through establishing deliberate socio-economic programs aimed at economically empowering the people, especially the Women and Youth;

(iii) There is need for Africa to build strong and professional armies which are equipped with the correct ideology of Non-Sectarianism; Pan-Africanism; and Nationalism, in order to defeat terrorism; and

(iv) There is need for cross-border cooperation and information and intelligence sharing; and the provision of technical assistance and capacity building with the view to building professional state institutions, specifically in law enforcement and national security in Africa.

I thank you for your attention.

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