



**UGANDA**

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62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

**Sixth Committee**

Agenda Item 108:

**Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism**

**Statement by**

**Duncan Muhumuza Laki, First Secretary**

October 11, 2007

New York

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Mr. Chairman,

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

First, let me align my delegation with the statement of Benin on behalf of the African Group, the statement of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC, and the statement of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

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

Uganda welcomes the entry into force of the International Convention for the suppression of Nuclear Terrorism this past July. We commend the 1540 Committee created by the Security Council to prevent terrorists from accessing weapons of mass destruction. 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. 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.

We welcome the work of the UN towards creating a more secure world free from the threat of terrorism. We urge all states to build on the momentum attained with the adoption of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in 2006. Terrorism is a cancer which if left unattended poses the risk of spreading to the whole body. This cancer must therefore be identified; and the conditions under which it thrives must be removed before we can hope to ultimately eradicate the threat. You do not eradicate cancer by only combating the symptoms; you must also address the root causes.

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 hope that under your able leadership, this will be the time when the tough but necessary decisions will be made. I thank you.