

Statement by the Delegation of Uganda to the 6th Committee
Agenda Item 107 - "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"

October 8, 2014

Presented by Ambassador Duncan Muhumuza Laki

Mr Chairman,

Like other speakers before me, I take this opportunity to congratulate Amb. Tuvako Manongi of the United Republic of Tanzania, and other members of the Bureau for a successful outcome during the 69th session.

I would like to align my delegation with the statements made on behalf of the African Group, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We welcome the Secretary-General's update by various stakeholders on the measures taken to eliminate international terrorism.

Mr Chairman,

Uganda condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, for whatever purpose and by whomsoever. Terrorism can never be justified under any pretext. 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 is a minimum requirement that isolates terrorism; and thus differentiating it from other legitimate struggles.

The conditions under which terrorism thrives must be addressed before there can be any hope to ultimately eradicate the threat. In order to eradicate the problem, the root causes must be identified. This would enable the international community from concentrating on the symptoms. Accordingly, we call on the international community to address the root causes of terrorism. Poverty needs to be addressed as one of the conditions under which terrorism thrives.

My delegation fully supports the ongoing efforts to refine the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy as well as to achieve consensus regarding the draft comprehensive Convention on international terrorism. Uganda supports the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The onset of the ISIS and its reprehensible methods should act to strengthen our resolve to get rid of these barbaric forces as a matter of urgency.

Mr Chairman,

Uganda has been engaged in the fight against terrorism for a long time, with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA); the so-called Allied Democratic Forces (ADF); and the Al-Shabaab in Somalia, Ugandan men and women have been leading at the frontline. The LRA was defeated and routed out of Ugandan territory, but unfortunately they continue to cause wanton suffering in The Central African Republic, and some parts of North Eastern DRC. We call on all people of goodwill to join in the effort to neutralize these bands of

terrorists, otherwise they might continue to be elusive ~~to~~ being flushed out from one enclave, only for them to appear in another place.

We must collectively engage in efforts aimed at denying terrorists any havens, eradicating sources of terrorist financing, reducing state vulnerability, and enhancing emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Under the auspices of the African Union, Uganda is the biggest contributor to the AMISOM forces, and in that capacity Uganda has been at the forefront of fighting the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. In