



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**AT THE**

**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL SUMMIT  
ON  
NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

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**Mr. President,**

**Distinguished Colleagues,**

**The Secretary General.**

I would like to thank President Barack Obama for convening this meeting of the Security Council to discuss the issues of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. The holding of this meeting at this level attests to the importance the Council and the international community attach to creating a more secure and peaceful world.

**Mr. President,**

Uganda is a proponent of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. Preventing the spread and use of nuclear weapons is fundamental to the security of nations and to the peace of the world. The proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction poses a serious threat to the world today more than ever before. The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remains the cornerstone of international efforts in containing the threat of nuclear

weapons and providing a framework for nuclear disarmament.

**Mr. President,**

As long as some countries have nuclear weapons, there will be others who aspire to get them as a deterrent measure. This, no doubt, leads to an arms race that increases the potential of proliferation. This summit, therefore, meets at a time when the nuclear dangers confronting the international community and the urgency of taking concrete steps to address them is clearer and more urgent. The nuclear weapons, themselves, were borne out of the unholy contest for world domination of man by man in the Second World War. Germany was trying to get these weapons. The USA got the nuclear bomb first and used it against Japan. The chain reaction then started. The Soviet Union developed the bomb in 1949, China developed theirs in 1965, India, Pakistan, France, the United Kingdom, etc. followed suit. The action and reaction in the field of these dangerous weapons should stop if we want a stable world. A stable world is only possible if we work for a world free of domination of man by man. We are pleased that this meeting is taking place ahead of next year's major

conference to review the NPT and hope that this meeting provides a positive impetus to its successful conclusion.

It is critical that we address ourselves to the three pillars of the NPT on: non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy. Any imbalance in addressing these three pillars will negatively impact on our capability to address the challenges. It will also be a failure to recognize that the purposes and provisions of the Treaty are dependent on one another.

**Mr. President**

We remain concerned at the slow progress in regard to steps taken by nuclear-weapon states leading to nuclear disarmaments. It is imperative that the process of engagement by nuclear states is accelerated to achieve complete disarmament.

Uganda therefore welcomes the outcome of recent talks between President Obama and President Dmitry Medvedev in which the United States of America and the Russian Federation committed to reducing their strategic warheads

and delivery vehicles. To this end, we support the convening of the 2010 Global Summit on Nuclear security. Further arms reduction underpins the international community's efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament but also enhances international peace and security.

We fully support Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in as far as it aims at banning all nuclear explosions in all environments, for military or civilian purposes. This would inhibit the development of nuclear weapons; contribute to nuclear disarmament and prevention of further damage to the environment.

**Mr. President,**

It is important that peaceful use of nuclear technology for development purposes by non-nuclear states be supported. Non-nuclear states should be able to harness nuclear technology for a wide range of civilian uses. In Uganda, like on any other corner of the globe, every aspect of human development such as health, education, agriculture, industry and infrastructure depends on reliable access to energy. However, energy production in

Uganda and Africa in general is unacceptably low. Although not yet exploited, the total hydropower potential on all the African rivers is about 300,000 megawatts. This potential is not enough to address the electricity needs of the 1.3 billion Africans by 2020 even if all of it is developed.

By comparison, the USA – with a population of only 316 million people – had installed electricity capacity of 1,021,000 megawatts in 2007, as opposed to Africa with a population of one billion people and an installed capacity of only 123,000 megawatts. Those numbers translate into a per capita consumption of electricity of 14,124 kWh for USA and 547 kWh for Africa. Unless you scientifically prove that Africans do not need electricity, it is clear that all sources of energy will have to be used including nuclear energy. Some people talk of solar energy; yet it is still expensive at 30-40 American cents per kWh compared to nuclear energy at 5-8 American cents per kWh.

We are convinced that the use of nuclear technologies in developing countries, especially in Africa to overcome the present power crisis can contribute to the continent's economic and social development. However, this investment in nuclear energy production is beyond many

developing countries' capabilities and would require closer regional cooperation and integration, as well as careful planning for investment. We, therefore, support the use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes and support the need for states to conduct all activities for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in compliance with the non-proliferation regime.

***Mr. President***

I would like to turn to a different but related matter. Although conventional weapons do not have the same potency for destruction as nuclear weapons, we have seen in many parts of the world the horror and destruction they have caused. The humanitarian impact of the use of small arms in places like Somalia, as weapons of choice in acts of piracy, to destabilize the region and international peace and security, warrant an equally resolute collective response.

The situation in Somalia has exacerbated the dumping of toxic waste off the coast of Somalia, the impact of which is unimaginable to the environment. There is, however, a real

danger of such toxic waste falling into the hands of terrorists. There is need for the Security Council to use the tools at its disposal to urgently exert efforts towards ensuring peace and stability in Somalia.

**Mr. President,**

Any measures or framework for non-proliferation and disarmament must be supported by a strong system of verification, compliance and full implementation. This will require strong political will by the nuclear weapon states to dismantle their arsenals first and work together to ensure non-nuclear states comply. The second challenge is to deal with conventional weapons that are called weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in places like Somalia.

Finally, the challenge for the Security Council is to act in unity and ensure full compliance on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

I thank you