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**STATEMENT BY AMB. RICHARD NDUHUURA
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AT A HIGH-LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE ON INTEGRATING CRIME
PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

New York, February 25, 2015

Please Check Against Delivery

Madam Chair,

Researchers have established that there is an inverse correlation between crime and development; where crime exists in abundance, development is suffocated. In other words, in most cases, the higher the crime and the more sophisticated it grows, the less the development and the more its attendant effects impact on poverty in the population who are denied social services.

In Uganda we have adopted a platform to tackle a coordinated approach to crime prevention and criminal justice called the Justice Law and Order Sector, also known as JLOS. It was adopted to bring together 17 institutions with closely linked mandates of administering justice and maintaining law and order and human rights. Some of the key JLOS institutions include; Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, Uganda Police, Uganda Prisons, the Law Development Centre, Ministry of Local government, Internal Affairs ministry and Uganda Law Society among others.

Madam Chair,

JLOS has management structures at the national and sub-national level to implement programmes and address obstacles to access to justice. At the sub-regional level, the Sector established District and Regional Chain-Linked Committees that bring together all key stakeholders in the justice system to collaborate in dealing with obstacles in the system. The chain-Linked Initiative focuses greatly on the criminal justice system and has been able to enhance the processes at that level. The focus has been on addressing everyday challenges in the criminal justice system, such as the quality of investigations, record keeping, coordinating of the scheduling and hearing of court cases and unique challenges in each district where they have been able to devise local solutions.

Through a collectivization of its institutional mandates, JLOS assumes, and seeks to discharge the country's obligation to respect, protect and fulfill universally accepted human rights standards. The JLOS Strategic Investment Plan (SIP III) is cognizant of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review of Country human rights performance under the international human rights instruments it is party to as well as continental and regional human rights commitments. Some of these include the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); the African Charter on Human and People's rights; the African Charter of the Welfare of the African Child; the African Protocol on Advancement of the Rights of Women; of the Juba Peace Agreement and more specifically the recommendations of the African Peer Review Mechanism Report.

Madam Chair,

At the national level, the Sector's overall strategy is to reduce crime and enhance safety and security to improve access to services. In the context of criminal justice, key reforms include:

1. Adoption of Sentencing Guidelines to ensure greater consistency and predictability in sentencing;
2. Introduction of plea bargaining to address case backlog and overstay on remand;
3. Transformation of policing to emphasize community policing; We have registered a 0.5% reduction in the volume of crime and the incidence of crime reduced from 305 for every 100,000 persons in 2012 to 273 for every 100,000 persons in 2013.
4. Addressing case backlog, through better planning, case management and regular sessions;
5. Adopting alternative sentences to divert petty offenders from the prisons – includes Community Service; diversion of juveniles through alternative sentences;
6. Construction of new service points – we now have 75% of the districts with fully established frontline Justice services (Court, prosecution, police).

7. Training has also been conducted for actors in the justice, law and order system (including Local Council Leaders, police officers, prosecutors, magistrates, and Community Development Workers/Probation Officers) in 25 districts, mainly from eastern and northern Uganda.

We are currently considering the use of Informal Justice systems, including the traditional justice systems to complement the criminal justice system and the transitional justice accountability processes.

Madam Chair,

With regard to mainstreaming crime prevention in criminal justice reforms, In the Uganda Prison's Service we have moved forward in tertiary prevention by investing our efforts in taking a "restorative justice approach" to criminal justice in our "From prison Back Home" project. This project is based on a restorative justice approach, which emphasizes mediation and healing between offenders, victims and local communities for the purpose of repairing the harm caused by crime. The programme has consistently involved local council leaders, clan leaders, religious leaders, police, individual members of the community and civil society organizations doing work in the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. Communities have been sensitized and informed about the project with positive responses and participation being registered. The Uganda Prisons Service has partnered with the police through the community policing programme, community liaison offices and child and family protection units.

We have learned that better coordination plays a major role in reducing prison overcrowding. In Uganda, cooperation has been improved between courts, prosecutors and prisons, and between those authorities and social services, local community leaders and non-governmental organizations, through regular meetings, joint prison visits, and the development and distribution of agreed performance standards. These efforts have been successful in speeding up the processing of cases and the release of detainees who were found to have been imprisoned unlawfully.

Madam Chair,

At the Regional level my delegation would like to underscore the need to establish and continue to improve Regional Centres of Excellence. To this end, Uganda, as a member Of The United Nations Global Compact Initiative will be host to the East African Community Regional Forensic Referral Center (RFRC) based in Kampala as a mechanism to achieve the regional security and peace goals. Although joint security initiatives, common policing standards, joint investigation and exchanges of information are already in place, a forensic laboratory will enable greater coordination between police, security and forensics groups and the gathering of the right evidence in the right manner for effective and speedy court prosecution of alleged suspects.

Uganda is signatory to the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework on the DRC and the Region, signed by 11 regional states and 4 regional and international organizations, as well as the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes region. The Pact includes 10 Protocols and 4 Programmes of Action. One of the Protocols is the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children. Under the Framework, the Government of Uganda has fulfilled its pledge to provide office premises for the establishment of a much needed Sexual and Gender Based Violence Regional Training facility whose priority is to provide training for various actors who encounter victims of rape and of violence, particularly Gender Based Violence. It was launched and started its operations in 2014.

Madam Chair,

At the International level, Uganda is already host to the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of offenders (UNAFRI). UNAFRI was established in 1989, as a United Nations Institute for Africa, with the mandate of crime prevention and treatment of offenders. This mandate is expected to be carried out through dissemination of information and knowledge of good practices; policy action-oriented researches; training; and human capital development for the entire African continent.

UNAFRI's sister institutions, charged with similar mandates, include UNICRI (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) based in Turin, Italy; UNAFEI (United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the

Treatment of Offenders) in Tokyo, Japan; HEUNI (European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control) in Helsinki, Finland; and ILANUD (United Nations Latin American Institute for Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders) in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Individual members of the JLOS regularly coordinate their programmes with UNAFRI for training and capacity building programs in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. We, however, feel that greater attention needs to be paid to the role it plays in a region like Africa which is battling the negative after-effects of terrorism, the emergence of fragile states, an increase in piracy, trans-national organized crime, drug trafficking and cyber-crime.

I thank you