



UGANDA

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STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

**MEETING ON SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
(4TH COMMITTEE)**

OCTOBER 14, 2015

New York

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Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you and other Bureau members on your election, and assure you of Uganda's full support and cooperation. Indeed my delegation has full confidence in you and your able leadership to successfully steer the work of this important Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

It is very unfortunate that 70 years after its formation, the UN has not lived up to the People's expectations because we still have 17 non- self-governing territories. This Committee has become an *accomplice* in the untold sorrow of humanity in those territories. It is disappointing that, in this century, the Charter of the United Nations has not been fully respected, and violations of human rights and all sorts of atrocious crimes are still being committed in the territories under foreign occupation. Therefore, as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, we need to also appreciate the challenges this august institution faces regarding the advancing of its historic decolonization mandate.

Having attained her Independence 53 years ago, Uganda is certainly celebrating her success and achievements as a nation. However, on this occasion we as nations should also introspect about what remains to be done for territories under foreign occupation. You cannot celebrate independence in a true sense, when others are being besieged on their territories.

*Let me quote one of our founding fathers, Kwame Nkrumah **Quote** "Freedom is not something that one people can bestow on another as a gift. They claim it as their own and none can keep it from them" **End Quote***

Those words are still as relevant today- as they were 50 years ago. Have we lived to the expectations of our founding fathers or are we experiencing retrogression of the ideals that they stood for? As a Country, we are profoundly proud of the struggle of the Sahrawi People, because it is just, noble and indispensable in putting an end to the humiliating bondage forced on them.

Mr. Chairman,

The peoples of all the occupied territories must exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. The right of the Saharawi people to self-determination lies in the UN doctrine relating to decolonization and the continuing status of Western Sahara as a Non-Self Governing Territory is self-defeating! Western Sahara remains the only colony on the African continent. The African Union Heads of State and Government firmly support the independence of Western Sahara.

Despite decisions agreed upon by the African Union Heads of State and Government as well as Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, including the mandate to hold a referendum in Western Sahara, flagrant and countless violations of human rights, drug trafficking and illegal exploitation of natural resources have become an order of the day under the watch of the international community.

The community of nations also requires to note, that failure to resolve this crisis may exacerbate terrorist activities by ISIS, Boko haram and Al-Qaeda in the Sahel region.

The amphibious assault on Western Sahara contravenes the core principles of the United Nations Charter as well as Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Those violations with impunity are indefensible in the 21st century! The international community and United Nations have created a sense of despondency among the Sahrawi People!

Mr. Chairman,

The right to self-determination, decolonization and the sanctity of colonial borders, respect for human rights and humanitarian support, International legality and the centrality of the United Nations, Non-exploitation of natural resources of the illegally occupied territories must be respected. To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity!

It is in this context that Uganda supports the inalienable right of the Sahrawi People to self-determination and condemns gross violations of human rights that are committed with impunity against them, in complete disregard of United Nations and African Union resolutions and decisions.

I thank you.