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STATEMENT

BY

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(INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION) OF THE REPUBLIC OF
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AT

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH -LEVEL MEETING ON COUNTERING
NUCLEAR TERRORISM**

New York, 28 September, 2012

Please Check Against Delivery

Co-Chairs,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Participants,

Uganda supports United Nations system-wide initiatives aimed at coalescing international efforts and action towards preventing and countering nuclear terrorism.

The danger of nuclear terrorism is real; it is one of the grave threats to our global security. The risk of nuclear attacks has increased considerably over the years, because radioactive and nuclear materials that can be stolen or sold and used in the construction of nuclear weapons exist in many countries. It is therefore essential to ensure improved accounting, control and physical protection systems for nuclear and other radioactive materials and substances.

This High-Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism with a Focus on Strengthening the Legal Framework is therefore timely. It provides an opportunity for us to take stock of the implementation of the multilateral legal framework on combating nuclear terrorism, and of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in order to come up with more effective initiatives to address the challenges identified.

Though we have not experienced nuclear terrorism in Uganda, we continue to face challenges and threats of terrorism from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), Al-Shabaab which is linked to Al-Qaida, and residual elements of the Lords' Resistance Army. These terror groups mainly use explosives to carry out terrorist attacks on innocent civilians.

The security threat facing the international community is further aggravated by the fact that some terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaida have explicitly expressed their readiness to acquire and use nuclear materials for their nefarious aims. The consequences would be extremely disastrous for all humanity.

Co-Chairs,

We must therefore collectively and as individual countries take proactive, comprehensive and concrete actions to secure nuclear materials and other radioactive sources. This entails deepening international cooperation, enhancing information sharing and strengthening organizations and institutions that help prevent nuclear materials from falling into the hands of terrorist groups.

In Uganda we have legislation to address this challenge including the Anti-Terrorism Act (2002) and the Atomic Energy Act (1973) as amended.

We should continue to work in partnership and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to strengthen our specialized capabilities in prevention, response and investigations.

Uganda also recommends member states that have not joined IAEA's Illicit Trafficking Data Base (ITDB) should do so because this system helps participating States and international organizations to combat illicit nuclear trafficking and strengthen nuclear security.

We should also remain vigilant and increase community mobilization programmes to combat terrorism and raise awareness among our population concerning health dangers associated with nuclear materials.

Co-Chairs,

It is essential that member states enhance collective efforts on capacity building, including sharing best practices and expertise on counter-terrorism capabilities and uphold the responsibility to support the victims of terrorism.

Finally, Uganda is committed to its obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and other relevant legislation. We are ready to complement international actions by enhancing cooperation with other countries in the prevention and combating nuclear terrorism.

Thank you for your attention.