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STATEMENT

BY

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**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AND CHARGE
D’AFFAIRES A.I. OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS OF THE FIRST
COMMITTEE OF THE 66TH UNGA SESSION**

New York,

06 October, 2011

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**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

I congratulate you and members of the Bureau upon your election to preside over the First Committee during this Session. We are confident that you will successfully steer the Committee's work. My delegation assures you of its full support and cooperation.

Uganda associates itself with the Statements made by the representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction continue to pose a serious threat to humanity. It is only through taking concrete and practical steps towards disarmament, non-proliferation and total elimination of those weapons that durable peace and security can be attained.

Uganda reaffirms its commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the cornerstone of global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. It is important that we sustain the momentum gained following the successful outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, especially its recommendations and follow-on actions that were adopted by consensus.

We reiterate our support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) banning all nuclear explosions in all environments whose entry into force, having been adopted 15 years ago, is long overdue.

Mr. Chairman,

Many countries in Africa, including Uganda, have suffered and are still recovering from the negative effects of the proliferation of illicit conventional arms, especially Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) which fuel conflicts. Uganda therefore supports the conclusion of an effective and legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 61/89 of 2006.

We look forward to the finalization of the preparatory processes culminating in the negotiation and conclusion of an ATT in 2012. In this regard, Uganda underscores the need for a balanced, non-discriminatory, universal, effective and equitable ATT that will not be subject to political abuse or prejudicial to the right of self-defence of any member state.

Mr. Chairman,

The government of Uganda is devoted to elimination of illicit weapons from circulation to combat problems posed by their proliferation. In this regard, we have under taken destruction of large numbers of assorted illicit small arms and light weapons, ammunition, and unexploded ordnances to ensure they do not find their way into wrong hands.

We welcome the important contribution by the United Nations, including the adoption of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and enhancement of national, regional and international counter-terrorism efforts.

Uganda supports the important work of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC), the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and all other international, regional and sub-regional bodies in the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions and other counter-terrorism instruments.

Uganda has taken concrete steps to meet her obligations to combat terrorism through, inter alia, implementing existing legislation, enacting of new legislation, and enhancing regional and international cooperation. However, Uganda like many other countries still faces technical and human resource capacity constraints. We therefore reiterate the need for commitment of more resources and technical assistance including training in detecting, investigating and suppressing financing of terrorism and the development of related data base and software in this regard.

Finally, **Mr. Chairman**, Uganda welcomes the renewed global attention to the need for more effective disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms and frameworks that are supported by a strong system of verification, compliance and full implementation.

Through our work in this Committee, we have the opportunity to make a significant contribution towards the realization of the universal aspiration for a peaceful, secure and prosperous world.

Thank you for your attention.