



# UGANDA

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STATEMENT BY

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AT

A SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON  
“MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY:  
CONFLICT PREVENTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES”

June 19, 2013

**New York**

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**Mr. President,**

I join you and others in condemning the barbaric and cowardly attack on the UN compound in Mogadishu and convey our condolences to the bereaved.

I wish to commend you and the delegation of the United Kingdom on your leadership of the Security Council this month. Thank you for convening this debate on the important topic of conflict prevention and natural resources. We also thank UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, Africa Progress Panel Chair Kofi Annan, World Bank Managing Director Caroline Anstey and Associate UNDP Administrator Rebecca Grynspan for their insightful briefings.

**Mr. President,**

We acknowledge that peace, security, development and human rights are closely linked and mutually reinforcing. In this context, it is essential to intensify efforts aimed at ensuring that conflicts are prevented through comprehensive strategies that address the root causes.

At the outset, my delegation would like to stress that the primary responsibility for prevention of conflicts lies with individual member states and that initiatives undertaken within sub-regional, regional or United Nations frameworks should support and complement the roles of national governments.

The African Union, in this regard, has shown its resolve towards addressing the root causes of conflicts on the continent, including through the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the African Peer Review Mechanism, the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, and the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy.

**Mr. President,**

On the issue of conflict prevention and natural resources, I would like to make four points. First, endowment with and harnessing of natural resources (minerals, water, fisheries, forests, oil, natural gas, coal etc.) provides countries with significant opportunities for national development. Uganda reaffirms the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources as an inalienable right, which must be exercised in the interest of national development and the well-being of the population.

Secondly, when countries' natural resources are well managed and the revenues generated are utilized for spurring economic growth, through investments in critical areas such as economic diversification, infrastructure development, education and health, numerous benefits are derived. These include employment creation and improvement in livelihoods which contribute to laying a strong foundation for peace and socio-economic development.

This is one of the ways of avoiding the so-called resource curse, or the paradox of countries and regions with abundant natural resources, especially non-renewable resources like minerals and fuels, tending to have less economic growth and worse development outcomes than countries with fewer natural resources.

Third, natural resources can, and often do cause conflicts within countries if not properly managed as different groups and factions fight for their share, while other conflicts may arise out of control and exploitation of resources or the allocation of the revenues accrued. In other cases, access to natural resource revenues by belligerents, through illegal exploitation, can fuel or prolong conflicts. There have also been cases of inter-state conflicts over natural resources.

**Mr. President,**

We therefore emphasize the need to intensify national, regional and international efforts to improve natural resource management through sharing of best practices and measures such as stabilization funds, sub-regional development programs, revenue-sharing regimes, and transparency initiatives. Additional measures may include local programs that compensate for the negative impacts of resource exploitation through programs for environmental protection, infrastructure development, and employment creation.

Fourth, and in conclusion, we recognize the importance of commodity monitoring and certification schemes and initiatives such as the Kimberly Process and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, as well other tools aimed at curbing illegal exploitation of natural resources, including through raising awareness of the private sector and all stakeholders. At the same time, Uganda underscores the need to promote legitimate trade in natural resources for economic growth and development.

I thank you for your attention.