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STATEMENT BY

**THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS, H.E. DR. RUHAKANA RUGUNDA**

**DEBATE ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN
MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

New York,

January 13, 2010

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Mr. President,

1. Let me begin by conveying our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Government and people of Haiti as well as the United Nations on the tragic loss of life, casualties, and destruction following the devastating earthquake. Our prayers and solidarity go to the families of the victims.

2. Thank you for organizing this important and timely debate. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his Statement. I also wish to thank the Heads and representatives of the respective regional and sub-regional organisations for their statements.

Mr. President,

3. This debate gives the Security Council and the participating regional and sub-regional organisations an opportunity to exchange views and to focus on how to strengthen their cooperation in maintaining international peace and security.

4. The primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security is vested in the Security Council. But the complexity of the threats to peace and security in various regions of the world is increasing, and the capacity of the United Nations is becoming overstretched.

5. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the partnership in which the United Nations, regional and sub-regional organisations all have critical roles to play in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

6. We are convinced that building an effective and strategic relationship has immense benefits. Regional and sub-regional organisations have a significant contribution to make; they have advantages of local knowledge, proximity, and capability to mobilize and respond quickly. However, some need financial resources and technical capacity to do so effectively.

7. The United Nations and other international partners need to provide effective, predictable and timely support to regional organisations when they undertake activities and operations mandated by the UN, aimed at maintaining international peace and security.

8. The African Union, for instance, has shown its resolve, commitment and capability in conflict prevention, mediation, and resolution on the continent. It is working on a comprehensive peace and security architecture, and has underscored the need for its member states to adhere to constitutionalism, democratic governance and the rule of law.

Mr. President,

9. Conflict prevention, mediation, resolution, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding are essential and indispensable tools in the maintenance of international peace and security. The effectiveness of these tools is enhanced through closer cooperation and coordination between the UN and the regional organisations.

10. Uganda therefore considers this debate as part of an important on-going process. We recall the constructive debates on strengthening AU-UN cooperation, held in March and October 2009. It is essential that the Security Council continues to engage and exchange views with regional and sub-regional organisations on practical ways of strengthening these useful partnerships.

11. We also call for enhancement of regular interaction, coordination, and consultation between the United Nations Secretariat and respective regional and sub-regional Organisations' Secretariats and Commissions on matters of common interest. This will enhance complementarity and minimize duplication of efforts.

11. Finally, we thank the delegation of China for preparing the Presidential Statement which we support.

Thank you.