



UGANDA

**Permanent Mission of Uganda
To the United Nations
New York**

Tel : (212) 949 – 0110

Fax : (212) 687 - 4517

STATEMENT BY

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

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE,

64TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, October 07, 2009

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like, on behalf of the Uganda delegation, to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election to guide the work of this Committee.

You have been entrusted with the great responsibility of the key role that this Committee plays in strengthening multilateralism and international cooperation in general, and in giving the Secretariat the mandate to carry out that important work.

The agenda of this Committee comprises many critical and urgent issues ranging from the shaping of our economic future to the very survival of our planet. As we engage in the discussions, we have to keep in mind that these crises constitute some of the biggest developmental challenges of our time. We must, therefore, give the substantive debates on these issues the same sense of urgency and open mindedness that will lead us to concrete results.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Sudan on behalf of the G77 and China, and Nepal on behalf of the LDCs, and Tunisia on behalf of the African Group.

Many of the most vulnerable countries have not yet emerged from the food security and energy crises that have had a severe and adverse impact on the livelihoods of their people. And yet we are now faced with even more threatening crises namely the global financial and economic downturn, climate change, and the swine flu pandemic.

This rising economic and environmental insecurity across the globe is seriously diminishing the hope of many developing countries achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target year of 2015.

These crises have also exposed the inherent weaknesses existing in the current global system. The fact that the international community was unable, until recently, to work together in dealing with the economic and financial crisis puts in sharp focus the serious gaps in multilateralism.

This further augments the long-standing necessity for reform of the multilateral systems including financial institutions and the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

It is our responsibility, in our deliberations, to ensure that the key priorities of other long-standing commitments, namely poverty eradication and the achievement of sustainable development, are not diminished. In fact substantive discussions must focus appropriately on global actions to accelerate progress towards meeting these goals.

The fulfillment of commitments on financing sustainable development should be given top priority. We need to deliver concrete guidance to the Assembly on the right course of action.

Mr. Chairman,

Uganda has tried to live up to her development commitments by adopting and transparently implementing comprehensive national strategies for reaching the MDG targets. Uganda has prioritized funding of infrastructure development, energy, universal primary and secondary education, and delivery of health services, among key sectors.

Uganda's economy has been fairly resilient and GDP growth for 2009/10 is projected at 7%. However, like most LDCs, we continue to be severely constrained by limited development resources as a result of continuous decline in income from trade, tourism, and transfers from nationals abroad, dwindling official development assistance and reduced foreign direct investments.

Our efforts, and those of other LDCs, need to be effectively supported by the international community. A strong case for enhancing support to developing countries can only be credibly made within the framework of this Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly.

In particular, my delegation would like to see adequate attention being given to the key issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development. These include the issues of international trade and investment, external debt relief, ODA as well as finance and technology transfer for adaptation to climate change.

In view of the current multiplicity of global crises, countries in special situations such as the LDCs, Landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) deserve special attention and consideration in our deliberations. The focus on south-south cooperation is also important to complement north-south and triangular cooperation. To that end, we look forward to our active participation in the forthcoming UN High-level Conference on South-South cooperation scheduled for December 2009 in Nairobi.

Mr. Chairman,

Following the collapse of the Doha round of trade negotiations, the threats of climate change-linked trade protectionism in developed countries are increasing. The developing countries would become double losers if those threats are actually carried out.

Uganda would like to underscore the fact that the use of unilateral trade measures which would in effect block or restrict developing countries' exports, on climate change-related grounds violate the provisions of the WTO and as such they should be prohibited. We look forward to further review of this particular global development within the context of the WTO guidelines.

In Uganda's view, the Copenhagen Summit is the best, and perhaps the last chance, we have got for reaching a collective agreement to save humanity from a global catastrophe that is quickly becoming a reality.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is ready to work constructively in this Committee. We are confident that with your guidance, this Committee will make effective contributions to specific outcomes of the 64th session of the GA that will facilitate faster progress towards the achievement of our common goals of global peace and sustainable development.

I thank you.