STATEMENT

BY HON. JOHN MULIMBA, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (REGIONAL COOPERATION) OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

AT

THE HIGH LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO COMMEMORATE AND PROMOTE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS,

28 SEPTEMBER 2021

NEW YORK

[Please check against delivery]
Mr. President,

Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

My delegation expresses its appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting and for your statement. I also thank the Secretary General for his remarks.

At the outset, Uganda aligns itself with the Statement made by Gabon, on behalf of the African Group. I now wish to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. President,

Uganda wishes to underscore that the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. There is no doubt that their continued presence constitutes a grave threat to global peace and security and an existential threat to humanity.

Uganda is a strong and consistent advocate of the principle of complete nuclear disarmament, as the utmost prerequisite for maintaining international peace and security. And in this context, welcomed the adoption of the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), on 7 July 2017, which compliments
other existing international instruments, like the Treaty on the Non-
Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

**Mr. President,**

Uganda continues to be deeply concerned with the slow pace of progress by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in accordance with their legal obligations and undertakings under Article VI of the NPT and the various relevant agreed outcomes of the NPT Review Conference. We therefore call for the implementation of all agreed measures and undertakings by the nuclear weapons States in the context of the Treaty.

Uganda reiterates its unfettered commitment to the Treaty of Pelindaba, which re-affirms the status of Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and as a shield for the African territory, including by preventing the stationing of nuclear explosive devices on the continent and prohibiting testing of those weapons on the African continent.

**Mr. President,**

Uganda underscores the importance of the continued respect of the inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy and stresses the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in this regard, through technical support and cooperation as well as,
maximizing the use of science and technology for socio-economic development.

Mr. President,
In conclusion, Uganda joins other member states in underscoring the importance of the commemoration of the "International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons" as an integral part of the multilateral disarmament effort; and looks forward to the actualization of the goal and objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Thank you for your attention.