



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT BY THE HON MINISTER FOR RELIEF, DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES AT THE CARTAGENA SUMMIT ON
A MINE FREE WORLD DELIVERED ON 3rd DECEMBER 2009**

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MINISTER FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES

Madame President, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I bring you all warm greetings from Uganda.

At the onset, if wishes were horses, I would wish to ride in a world free of mines not later than now, right from Cartagena. I pledge Uganda's commitment to the Convention and resolve in supporting this noble cause. I would like at this moment to call upon all Non States Parties to join us now in order to realise this objective.

Madame President, as the Minister in charge of the mine action programme in Uganda, I would like to acknowledge the requests voiced by the other States Parties on the need for donor commitment to expedite the process of resource mobilisation and timely releases of those resources in order to keep up within the required time frame for implementing Article Five of the Convention.

Uganda acknowledges with appreciation, the granting of a three-year extension to the Article Five obligations and is determined to complete the clearance of the minefields within this period. Uganda will in addition do her utmost in destroying unexploded ordnance other than landmines in order to guarantee the safety of all her people and to enhance their socio-economic recovery. While continuing to utilise her internal resources to fulfill these tasks, supplementary and timely donor support is paramount.

I would like inform you of the role Uganda continues to play particularly in Africa in mobilising other states to participate in the recovery efforts of internally displaced persons, returnees and refugees, who due to conflicts were displaced and now returning home. Uganda recently hosted the Special African Union Summit on Returnees, Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees. The Kampala Convention was the main

outcome of that Summit. We are now at the level of mobilising all the African States to ratify and implement the Convention.

On Victim Assistance, Uganda has proactive policies in support of the rights of landmine victims and survivors. These include the Policy on the Rights of Disabled Persons and the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan for Landmine Victims that are now under implementation.

Madame President, in concluding we associate ourselves with the Cartagena Action Plan and shall be part of the Declaration towards a timely end to the global suffering caused by antipersonnel mines.