PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA
STATEMENT BY DR. RICHARD NDUHUURA,
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE REPORT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

[Agenda Item 70] Please check against delivery

30th October 2014

Thank you very much Mr. President for the opportunity to address the Assembly on this important subject. I wish to start by thanking Judge Tomka, the President of the International Court of Justice for the comprehensive report.

Mr. President

Mr. President let me briefly address the issues raised in the report in Chapter V (2), under sub-heading, “Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda).” The Court found that the parties were under obligation to one another, to make reparation for the injury caused. Provision was also made for the parties to come to agreement on the question of reparations. Indeed the parties are noted to have continued to transmit to the Court information concerning the negotiations being held to settle outstanding issues.

Mr. President, Uganda continues to engage in this process, as there is a mechanism by which this particular aspect of the Court’s decision is being handled. A standing negotiating team is seized with the matter, and we continue to report to the Court on the status of the negotiations. The next meeting between the negotiating teams will be held on 17th November 2014, and the Court will be informed about the progress in this regard. We welcome the improvements which have resulted in the efficient handling of matters before the Court. The delivery of justice needs to be timely, because justice delayed is justice denied.

As an ardent believer in the Rule of Law, Uganda supports the work of the ICJ. Being the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the
International Court of Justice continues to play a positive role in the promotion of the rule of law, and consequently enhances the maintenance of international peace and security. It is noteworthy that during the reporting period, the Court has registered increased activity, including through its judgments and advisory opinions. This is testament to the esteem with which the institution is held, but more importantly, the increased commitment by States to the Rule of Law and the peaceful resolution of contentious matters.

We welcome the improvements which have resulted in the efficient handling of matters before the Court. The delivery of justice needs to be timely, because justice delayed is justice denied.

As a result of this engagement, Uganda is living at peace with the Democratic Republic of Congo, and both States enjoy cordial relations. This has enabled the two neighbours to collaborate on various matters of mutual interest for example security, and trade. Indeed, the existing cordial relations have enabled cross-border trade, interconnecting roads, combating illegal trade in minerals, and supplying electricity to some parts of Eastern DRC, to mention but a few.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Uganda and DRC will remain constructively engaged and periodically report on the progress achieved.

I thank you Mr. President.