STATEMENT BY
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AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE
68th SESSION
AGENDA ITEM 69: “PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS”

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Mr. Chairman,

Uganda reaffirms that all human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person and takes the protection and promotion of human rights as central in its national policies and programs. Consequently, Uganda has rectified several core international and regional instruments on human rights.

The constitution of Uganda provides for the protection of individual freedoms which includes forming, joining and having collective bargaining to improve their working condition of citizens.

The constitution provides for participation in democratic governance through periodic elections. In this regard, in 2005 the government of Uganda adopted a multiparty democracy to allow its citizen to express their freedom in leadership election right from the grass roots to the highest level office regularly.

In 1997 the government established of the Uganda Human Rights Commission to monitor the human rights situation in the country. Victims may report cases of human rights violations through regular courts or to the Uganda Human Right Commission (UHRC), which has judicial powers under the constitution that includes ordering the release of detainees, compensations to victims and other legal and administrative remedies.

Furthermore, the government of Uganda has instituted an Independent and Impartial Judicial system according to the mandate of the National constitution which includes the promotion of the rule of law and protection of rights of individuals.

Mr. Chairman,

Uganda believes that all human rights are indivisible, interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Respect for individual facilitates
the enjoyment of all human rights just as development for individual rights and freedoms enhance development. In this respect, the government has put in place policies and programs that have contributed to steady economic growth for the last twenty years that has led to reduction in general levels of poverty throughout the country. The government has achieved this through the implementation of sector-wide policies approach of involving the different representatives of stakeholders in proposing ideas that include programs for the vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Mr. Chairman,

The right to access information is one of the central components of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as established by article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 19(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. As a state party to this instrument the government of Uganda has made progress in this area by enactment of the Access to the Information Act in 2005. As a result of this in Uganda we have over 122 FM private radio stations, over 10 print media and 22 TV Stations spread over the country.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Uganda has made progress in facilitating and improving the effective enjoyment of Human Rights and fundamental freedom of its citizen. However, there is still a lot to be done to fully implement its National Action Plan on the implementation and protection human rights in Uganda. Uganda is committed to implementing and formulating new policies and measures aimed at addressing the promotion and protection of human rights of its people.

I Thank You.