



# UGANDA

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## STATEMENT BY

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

**SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION**

**New York, July 27, 2009**

*Please Check Against Delivery*

## **Excellencies,**

We thank Mr. Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant-Secretary-General for Political Affairs for his briefing on the situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian question.

My delegation also welcomes the Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the open debate

We welcome the relative calm during the period under review despite a few incidents. It is clear from the briefing, that not much progress has been achieved on implementing key elements of resolution 1860.

## **Excellencies,**

Uganda welcomes the efforts undertaken by different parties within and outside the region towards reinvigorating the peace process. We are encouraged by the affirmation by the Quartet, following its recent meeting held in Trieste on June 26, 2009, of its determination to actively seek a comprehensive resolution of the Middle-East conflict.

We also welcome and support the convening of an international conference on the Middle East peace process in Moscow this year.

We call for an early resumption and conclusion of negotiations between the parties for a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region premised on a two-state solution; an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State living side-by-side with Israel in peace and security.

We welcome the recent removal of checkpoints and roadblocks in the West Bank by Israel. We also commend the recent steps taken to boost the Palestinian economy in the West bank. My delegation nevertheless reiterates our concern over the continued blockade on Gaza. It is clear that this blockade continues to negatively impact on the fabric of civilian life and we call for its immediate end. We also call for an end to arms smuggling into Gaza.

My delegation also reiterates our concern over the significant rise in settlers' activities in both the West Bank and East Jerusalem which have continued to take their toll on the population. We call for a freeze on all settlement activity, including natural growth.

**Excellencies,**

Uganda appreciates the efforts of the Palestinian Authority in implementing their obligations under the road map sector reforms, but notes the budgetary constraints they are facing. We call on development partners to fulfill their pledges, to enable the Palestinian Authority meet its obligations including payment of salaries to civil servants.

We are concerned that divisions among the Palestinian groups persist, with a detrimental effect on the overall negotiations on the Middle East question, re-construction and development of Gaza. We reiterate our call on the Palestinians to resolve their differences through dialogue.

My delegation urges all parties to fully comply with and implement all Council resolutions including resolution 1860, as the best way for reaching a lasting solution to the Middle East conflict.

With regard to Lebanon, we are deeply concerned about the explosions which occurred on July 14, in the area of Khirbat Silim and the subsequent injuries to a number of troops serving with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

We call on all parties to fully implement resolution 1701 and avoid engaging in any acts that will increase tension in Lebanon.

**Thank you.**