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STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT
THE 52ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

*New York
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Chairperson,
Excellencies
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Uganda, I wish to join the previous speakers to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau, for your leadership in guiding the work of the Commission, which is geared towards the attainment of the goals of gender equality and women's empowerment. My delegation is optimistic that the outcomes of the 52nd Session of the Commission will provide further impetus in addressing the critical concerns of women at all levels, across different development themes.

Chairperson,
My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China.

Chairperson,
My Government would like to congratulate the Secretary General for his exemplary leadership in the fight to eliminate violence against women. The launch of the campaign at the opening of this session is a clear testimony of the commitment of the UN system to tackle this scourge, which is an impediment to achieving global development. Violence Against women has been one of our priority areas of action and we are grateful for the support from the UN agencies through their interagency mechanism in Uganda.

Chairperson,
The priority theme this year's session '**Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**' is critically important because it brings to the fore, a fundamental challenge for implementing international, regional and national commitments towards gender equality and women's empowerment. We have, no doubt, agreed to a number of policy strategies and frameworks on gender equality, but a clear trend is evident across the globe, that requisite resources, particularly finances, have not followed these commitments. As a result, implementation has been slow and in many respects selective.

Uganda Government was honoured to host and chair the Eighth Commonwealth women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (8WAMM) in June 2007, whose theme was 'Financing Gender Equality for Democracy and Development'. It is my belief that the outcomes of this forum as outlined in the Kampala communiqué, will provide useful insights for the discourse at this Session of the Commission.

Financing for gender equality entails engendering macro-economic frameworks and national budgets. Uganda has been experimenting Gender responsive budgeting initiative as part of the national development plan.

Our experience over the years has taught us that:

- Availability of gender-disaggregated data for all sectors is critical for the success of the initiative;
- Strong partnership between the Ministries of Finance and the National Women's Machinery is paramount for the success of the initiative;
- The existence of a National Gender Policy is an important driving force and that
- We need to track the money right from budgeting to implementation level, to establish the extent to which the needs of women have been addressed.

Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

We acknowledge the commendable efforts taken particularly in pursuing the Millennium Development Goal 3 – *promoting gender equality and women's empowerment*. Key interventions in this regard in our country include Universal Primary Education Programmes, which have contributed to narrowing gender gaps in primary schools enrollment and completion at that level. However, to achieve the set targets of the MDGs, it is important to address women's economic security; increased political participation and decision-making; women's human rights; as well as peace and security of person.

Distinguished Delegations,

The Beijing Platform calls for the establishment of effective institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, at national, regional and international levels. The discussion on establishment of a high level, coordinated and well-resourced women's entity within the UN has been going on for some time now. My delegation is optimistic that the recommendations of the informal consultations of the General Assembly on the gender architecture will be acted on expeditiously.

As I conclude, I wish to reaffirm that financing gender equality and women's empowerment is a legitimate pre-condition for achieving and sustaining social economic development, fulfillment of rights for all without discrimination, and ensuring well-being for women and men, boys and girls all over the world, for this generation, and those that will follow.

I thank you.