

ق - 69/(11/13)/033 - خ(0669)



كلمة

فخامة السيد / إدوارد كيوهاوكا

رئيس جمهورية اوغندا

أمام

القمة العربية الأفريقية الثالثة

دولة الكويت: 19 - 20 نوفمبر 2013

**STATEMENT BY H.E. EDWARD KIWANUKA SSEKANDI,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
AT THE 3rd AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT: 19-20 NOVEMBER 2013**

Edward
Your Highness Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait,
Your Excellency Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia,
The Chairperson of the Africa Union Commission,
The Secretary General of the League of the Arab States,
Your Highnesses and Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellencies Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

I wish, on behalf of my delegation and indeed on my own behalf, to join previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to His Highness the Amir, the Government and People of the State of Kuwait for the very warm reception and traditional generous Kuwait hospitality accorded to my delegation since we arrived in this beautiful country.

In 2005, World Leaders converged in New York at the Millennium Summit and adopted an ambitious plan for socio-economic development and transformation in the world. At the time of our meeting, our regions, and indeed the international community are running the last lap of the Millennium Development Goals, which we set out to achieve by 2015. The discussions we held in New

York this year indicated that we still have some way to go with the realisation of these goals, especially for most of our countries.

Fortunately, our meeting has also come at a time when discussions are already under way across regions on the elaboration of a Post-2015 Development Agenda. The theme for this Summit, *“Partnership in Development and Investment”* is therefore both relevant and timely, as we strive towards socio – economic transformation for our countries and regions. At national and regional level, we need to focus on activities and priority sectors that will support jobs and growth.

Within Africa, we have prioritised regional integration and strengthening of regional economic commissions. Accordingly, we are prioritising development of intra-regional ICT, energy and infrastructure projects to open up Africa, with a view to supporting industrialisation and facilitating movement of people, goods and services. We also need to support agricultural productivity in Africa, which is the backbone of most of our economies. Individually and collectively, our challenge remains the mobilisation of requisite financing to realise these aspirations.

Your Excellencies,

As we emphasise development and investment, we should also remain mindful of the need for peace and security as a vital requirement that lays

the ground for development to take place. Uganda thus commends the work of the Security Councils of the African Union and the Arab League in their untiring efforts to establish strategies for peace and stability in various conflict situations in our regions. *We need to strengthen their joint efforts in this area.*

We have noted the issue of upheavals that swept across our two regions, as pointed out in the Activity Report. We believe that in order to strengthen the Africa-Arab Partnership in conflict prevention and resolution, there is need to emphasise local and regional solutions for local and regional problems. This approach has been instrumental in resolving some of the conflicts in our regions, where it has been given the chance. Undue foreign interventions can complicate, rather than contribute to sustainable solutions. Foreign support should therefore be for strengthening local and region-led efforts.

In this regard, Uganda attaches special interest to peace and security in the Horn of Africa. We wish to encourage the two Security Councils to enhance efforts to assist in the stabilisation of the political, security and humanitarian situations in Somalia. We have so far realised significant progress in Somalia in the political and security situations. Our previous efforts have also helped in easing the threat of piracy, but we need to continue and sustain the momentum. We also need to address threats of extremism and terrorism which threatens us individually as countries and as a region. We deplore and condemn in the strongest terms, the recent terrorist attack in Nairobi which

claimed several innocent lives, and our regions should condemn terrorism in all its forms.

Your Highnesses and Excellencies,

Uganda recognises that the phenomenon of human migration offers both opportunities and challenges to socio economic development. We therefore welcome the proposal to set up an Africa-Arab Technical and Coordination Committee in this area, to look at concrete measures to address migration challenges. We believe there will be need for bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding between sending and receiving countries of migrant workers. This would enhance orderly migration and help limit illegal migration, yet promote respect of human rights and foster increased productivity and economic development in our two regions.

I thank you.