

Unofficial transcript
His Excellency Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni,
President of the Republic of Uganda.

I will not read out my statement, for I would then repeat what other leaders have said. Instead, I will make four points.

First, I thank President Obama for convening this special meeting of the Security Council to discuss this very important topic.

Secondly, it is clear that the possession of nuclear weapons is the main cause of other countries wanting to acquire them. It is not logical to say that a few of us should possess nuclear weapons and others should not.

I am therefore very pleased to hear some countries that have nuclear weapons say that they are aiming to get rid of all of them.

Action leads to reaction; reaction leads to counter-reaction. We therefore need to look at history to see how all of this began. Germany wanted nuclear weapons in order to dominate the world with them. The United States beat Germany and acquired those weapons first. It then used them. After that, the Soviet Union had to acquire nuclear weapons in order to counterbalance the United States; then China had to acquire them, and so on. Thus, we can see that the main cause of nuclear proliferation is actually the possession of those weapons.

Thirdly, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is based on three principles that I think are very good: non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Finally, I would like to inform the Security Council that Africa is interested not in nuclear weapons, but in nuclear energy. The reason for our interest in nuclear energy is that all the rivers in Africa have a potential total hydropower capacity of approximately 300,000 megawatts. In Africa, we expect to have a population of 1.3 billion by 2020. The United States, with its population of only 300 million people, currently uses 1 million megawatts, but all the rivers in Africa have the potential of only 300,000 megawatts. Even if all the sites on African rivers were developed, we would not have enough electricity to

sustain our population, unless, of course, it were scientifically proved that Africans do not need electricity. However, if one does not come to this absurd conclusion, it is clear that Africa will have to use all energy sources available, including nuclear energy.

Some people speak of solar energy, but a kilowatt hour of solar energy currently costs about 40 United States cents, whereas a kilowatt hour of nuclear or hydropower energy costs about five to six cents.

Therefore, nuclear energy is of great interest to Africa.