Our Ref:.......................... Date:.........................

Your Ref:..........................

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

19TH SESSION

28TH FEBRUARY TO 23 MARCH 2012

Madam President,
Distinguished delegates,

The Uganda Human Rights Commission would like to commend the Government of Uganda for the consultative process that underpinned the first phase of the Universal Periodic Review of Uganda. The encompassing approach undertaken by the Government of Uganda enabled it to report on the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights for the first time.

In regard to civil and political rights, the Uganda Human Rights Commission would like to reiterate its position on the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, which is a private member’s bill, and to state that some of the provisions of the Bill are unnecessary and violate international human rights standards. Instead of a new bill, the existing legislation should be strengthened to address such things as same sex rape and abuse. The Uganda Human Rights Commission would like to acknowledge the disbandment of the Rapid Response Unit and applauds efforts by the Uganda Police Force to respect the freedom of assembly during the Action For Change Rallies. However, the Uganda Human
Rights Commission still urges the Government of Uganda to hold individual perpetrators under the disbanded Rapid Response Unit accountable. The Uganda Human Rights Commission further urges the Uganda Police Force to ensure the observance and respect of human rights after closure of rallies and also calls upon the opposition parties to shoulder their obligations during these rallies. The Uganda Human Rights Commission will continue to work closely with the Uganda Police Force to ensure the promotion and protection of the freedom of assembly.

The Uganda Human Rights Commission would like to urge the Government of Uganda to implement the voluntary commitments, pledges and recommendations adopted. Of importance is the development of the National Action Plan on Human Rights that will incorporate the recommendations from the Uganda Periodic Review.

In line with its mandate, the Uganda Human Rights Commission will provide technical support and continue to monitor the implementation of the voluntary commitments, pledges and recommendations adopted.

Thank you.

[Signature]

Med S.K. Kaggwa
Chairperson, Uganda Human Rights Commission