Statement of H.E. Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki,
President of the 64th Session of the General Assembly,
Before The Adoption of Draft Resolution: A/64/L.36 at the Sixty-Sixth
Meeting of the Plenary

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

The General Assembly will now consider an item of immense importance to the United Nations: draft resolution A/64/L.36 on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. This important event will take place at a time of great global insecurity, in which we are witnessing the erosion of the hard-won development gains made in previous decades, with a particular impact on the most vulnerable. The High-level Plenary Meeting will therefore offer a unique opportunity to demonstrate our continued resolve and determination to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, as well as the IADGs. I am pleased that today we are taking another crucial step towards fulfilling our collective promise to the world.

In this regard, I owe a great deal of gratitude to the co-facilitators, Ambassador Paul Badji of Senegal and Ambassador Carsten Staur of Denmark, for their skilful leadership as well as to all Member States for their hard work, flexibility and constructive engagement in the process.

Please allow me now to briefly turn to draft resolution A/64/L.36, which you have in front of you. In the draft, the membership requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report by March 2010.

In March 2010, upon submission of the report, I intend to initiate open, inclusive, and transparent consultations with all Member States with a view to reaching the broadest possible agreement on all major issues, including the adoption of a concise and action-oriented outcome to be agreed by Member States before the summer. Furthermore, I plan to organize, in consultation with representatives of NGOs, civil society and the private sector, two days of informal interactive hearings by June 2010 to provide input to the preparatory process in accordance with the present resolution.

As I have said before, drastic measures are needed to reach the Millennium Development Goals. Today, we are taking an important step forward. We can take another leap next year. As President of the General Assembly, I assure you that I will work with all Member States to advance this objective; with transparency, fairness and respect.

Thank you.