

21 June 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss,
President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Re-appointment of the Secretary-General**

Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

In my capacity as President of the General Assembly, I would like to thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, on behalf of all the Member States for your remarkable leadership of our Organization thus far. Your re-appointment today is a sign of the esteem that all those States have for you and of their confidence in you.

Loyalty, discretion and conscience: these are the qualities that you swore to exercise when you took your oath of office. Loyalty, discretion and confidence, Mr. Secretary-General: these qualities were not just words. For the past five years, on a daily basis, they have truly guided you in your work.

Since your assumption of office, you have been active in many areas. In a complex, difficult international environment, you have strengthened the role and the visibility of the United Nations by adopting reform measures; launching exciting, innovative initiatives; and calling faithfully and constantly for respect for human rights, the rule of law and the other values rooted in our Charter.

Allow me to mention just a few examples that, in my view, illustrate your tireless commitment to serving the international community. In the area of security and peacekeeping, creation of the Department of Field Support focused on more effective management with a view to greater impact on the ground. With respect to disarmament and reduction of the world's nuclear arsenal, establishment of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, as well as your initiative to convene a meeting on disarmament in the margins of the General Assembly last summer, gave new impetus to this key issue.

Concerning the empowerment of women and the promotion of their rights, you will be remembered, Mr. Secretary-General, as the man who created UN-Women by combining the mandates of various programmes in order to achieve greater efficiency. During the General Assembly's dialogue on development last week, we measured progress in implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, another telling example. I cannot do justice to your achievements by listing all of them, but I would like to mention your commitment to combating climate change, fostering sustainable development and promoting safety in the use of civil nuclear energy.

The past few months have been a particularly tumultuous period for the international community. You have said that the "Arab spring" was a once-in-a-generation opportunity. It is essential to show our

solidarity with people who aspire to greater freedom, democracy and well-being. Recent events have shown once again that the world needs the United Nations and that the United Nations needs a Secretary-General with the qualities of leadership and determination. The world needs a solid, credible Organization with a Secretariat and intergovernmental bodies that are mutually reinforcing.

Mr. Secretary-General,

As President of the General Assembly, I want to tell you how much I value the excellent collaboration between your Office and mine and your readiness to cooperate. You have always been extremely transparent concerning your activities and your travels abroad. For example, on 28 March 2011, you had hardly returned from your trip to North Africa when you came before the General Assembly to report on recent developments in the region. These ties are important; they foster dialogue between the Secretariat and Member States and contribute to the revitalization of the General Assembly, both within our Organization and on the international stage.

Mr. Secretary-General,

The task is not easy, as you know, but I assure you of the full support of the General Assembly and its Member States. This second term of office will allow you to work even harder to promote the fundamental values of the Charter. On a personal level, I would like to congratulate you again on your achievements and to wish you every success in the future.