



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 October 2011

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to inform you that I will convene an informal discussion on “United Nations Mediation: Experiences and Reflections from the Field” which will be held on 9 November 2011, between 3.00-6.00 pm in Conference Room 1 (NLB).

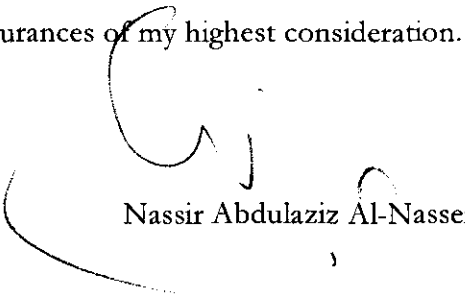
As you would recall, based on my firm belief on the critical role of mediation in prevention and resolution of conflicts, I suggested the theme “The role of mediation in the settlement of disputes” for the General Debate of this session. The views expressed in the General Debate will be very useful for our deliberations in the upcoming year. Furthermore, I have already identified “the peaceful settlement of disputes” as one of the key areas for this session as well.

The objectives of the meeting on 9 November is to discuss thoroughly the role of the United Nations in mediation as a promising tool of peaceful resolution of disputes, to distil and collect UN-wide experiences on mediation from the prevention, peacemaking and peacekeeping perspectives. The discussion would also contribute to the development of guidance for more effective mediation undertaken by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution A/RES/65/283 of 28 July 2011.

Member States and other relevant actors, including current and former United Nations officials, select members of the academia and non-governmental actors are invited to the meeting. The draft program is attached herewith.

I would appreciate it if you could kindly participate in this interactive discussion, and share your valuable views and experience.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers  
To the United Nations  
New York

**United Nations Mediation:  
Experiences and Reflections from the Field**

**An Informal Meeting Organized by the President of the General Assembly**

**9 November 2011, 3.00-6.00 pm, Conference Room 1, NLB, United Nations**

The objective of this informal meeting is as follows:

(a) Promote mediation as a promising tool of peaceful resolution of disputes with the Member States and other relevant representatives; and

(b) Distil and collect UN-wide experiences on mediation from the prevention, peacemaking and peacekeeping perspectives.

The discussion is also expected to contribute to the development of effective mediation guidance undertaken by the Secretary-General, in accordance with resolution A/RES/65/283 of 28 July 2011.

A summary of the event will be prepared and made available.

**Draft Agenda**

**Opening Segment**

**3.00-3.15 Official Welcome and Introductions:**

**H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations

**H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary-General of the United Nations

**3.15 – 3.25 Keynote address:**

“The Role of the United Nations in Contemporary International Mediation: Primus Inter Pares?”

**Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah**, President for the Center of Strategy and Security in the Sahel and the Sahara, former SRSG UN Office in West Africa, former SRSG Somalia

**3.25 – 4.30 Panel Discussion**

“Extracting Mediation Lessons Learned and Principles from UN Experience in Prevention, Peacemaking and Peacekeeping Context”

Chair

**Mr. Shepard Forman**, Director Emeritus and Senior Fellow of the Center on International Cooperation at New York University

Speakers

**Mr. Taye Zerihoun**, Assistant-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, DPA; former SRSG in UNMIS and UNFYCIP

**Ms. Gwi-Yeop Son**, Director, OCHA and Former Resident Coordinator for Thailand

**Mr. Noel Sinclair**, Permanent Observer of the Caribbean Community to the United Nations, former UN Special Envoy to Bougainville

**Ms. Elisabeth A. Lindenmayer**, Director of the United Nations Studies Program at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

**4.30 – 5.30 Discussion**

**5:30 – 5.40 Summary of the meeting by the Chair**

**5.40 – 5.45 Closing Remarks:**

**H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations