



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 April 2012

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to inform you that I will convene an informal high level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on “The Role of Member States in Mediation”. This one-day event will be held on Wednesday, 23 May 2012, at the United Nations.

The landmark resolution 65/283, adopted by the General Assembly on the 22nd of June last year, same day of my election as the President of the General Assembly, created a sound normative framework for the concept of mediation as a means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution. The increasing interest in mediation by Member States and my own commitment to this issue led me to suggest the theme “the role of mediation in the settlement of disputes” for the General Debate in September 2011. I was humbled and encouraged by the strong support expressed by the world leaders for this theme.

I also identified “the peaceful settlement of disputes” as one of the four pillars of my Presidency of the General Assembly. In this framework, I convened an interactive meeting on United Nations mediation on 9 November 2011 at the United Nations. This meeting was attended by the UN Secretary-General as well as former and current high level officials of the United Nations. Thorough discussions were held to collect UN-wide experiences on mediation from the prevention, peacemaking and peacekeeping perspectives. After the meeting, the chair’s summary was distributed to Member States and other participants.

Following this interactive debate, two related meetings have been organized. First, the Friends of Mediation brought together representatives of some regional organizations at the United Nations on 11 January 2012, on the role of the regional organizations in mediation. Second, the International Istanbul Conference on enhancing peace through mediation, which I also addressed, was held on 24-25 February 2012 and focused on the increasing and critical role of track II actors in mediation, such as civil society organizations, research institutions, and former high level personalities.

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

