

27 September 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,
President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly,
on the death of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Professor Wangari
Maathai of Kenya**

Statement attributable to the spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, has learned with sadness the death of Professor Wangari Maathai in Nairobi, Kenya.

The death of Professor Wangari Maathai, a UN Messenger of Peace with special focus on the Environment and Climate Change, is a great loss, not only to Kenyans but also to the UN family and the millions of people she inspired through her successful campaigns as an advocate for justice, women's issues and good governance.

President Al-Nasser recalls Professor Maathai's close work with many entities of the United Nations, including the UN Environment Programme, (UNEP), and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, (FAO), which appointed her as a Goodwill Ambassador for the Congo Basin Forest Ecosystems in early 2005. The Green Belt Movement she founded as part of her environmental campaign succeeded in planting millions of trees and engaged thousands of women in this effort to address deforestation. On his own behalf and on behalf of the Member States of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly extends his heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Professor Maathai, and to the Government and people of Kenya.