

20 September 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,
President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly,
at the High-level Meeting on Libya**

Excellencies,
Heads of State and Government,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Mr. Mustafa Abdul Jalil,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour to join you today at this high-level meeting on Libya. I congratulate the Secretary-General for organizing this timely and important meeting. The presence of so many distinguished guests today clearly demonstrates the international community's support of the Libyan people in their quest for dignity and the defence of human rights.

The United Nations has taken a very advanced stance from the beginning of this dramatic period of Libyan history. Both the General Assembly and Security Council have taken action to meet the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Libyan people. I would like to pay a tribute to the mediation efforts of the Special envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Abdelillah al-Khatib.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the commitment of the Libyan interim authorities to build a new, democratic and pluralistic Libya in which human rights, fundamental freedoms and justice will be guaranteed and prosperity shared.

We are looking forward to the formation of an inclusive interim government.

Last Friday, I had the honor to preside over a meeting of the General Assembly which endorsed the credentials of the representatives of the new Libyan authorities. This is a fundamental step towards the full reintegration of Libya in the international community.

The United Nations will play a central role in coordinating international support for the political transition in Libya and the reconstruction of the country. I welcome the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2009 establishing a United Nations Support Mission in Libya, under the leadership of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to assist and support Libyan national efforts.

After such a period of insecurity and fundamental change, the international community must continue to stand ready to support the Libyan-led transition. It is for the interim Libyan authorities to define their national needs, priorities and transition requirements.

While the challenges of transition towards freedom and democracy are never simple, the General Assembly stands ready to meet these challenges, to provide the necessary experience, and to mobilize the global efforts to support the strong calls of the Libyan people for freedom. As President of the 66th session of the General Assembly, I am dedicated to reinforcing our commitment and support to the Libyan people at this challenging yet promising juncture of their nation's future.

Thank you and I wish you a productive high-level meeting.