

25 October 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,
President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Second Committee Side Event “Means of Implementation of
Sustainable Development”**

Delivered by Ambassador Mutlaq M. Al-Qahtani, Chef de Cabinet, on behalf of the President of the General Assembly

His Excellency Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Chair of the Second Committee,
Mr. Maurice Strong, who needs no introduction in the sustainable development community,
Distinguished panelists,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to make the following remarks on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, who was not able to join today's side event.

In 1992, by adopting agenda 21, world leaders at the Earth Summit set out the principles of sustainable development and highlighted that no one nation can achieve sustainable development alone.

Over the past 20 years governments, businesses, and civil society have accepted this paradigm as imperative for making progress on the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental.

Today, however the world is facing new and emerging challenges- challenges ranging from the food and energy crisis to the global recession to climate change. Of course, the ever-present challenge of poverty eradication looms large. All these factors make the situation today much more complex.

Implementation has proven difficult and many commitments remain largely unfulfilled.

But we have an opportunity to set it right.

The United Nations Conference on sustainable development to be held in Rio, 2012, is a chance to pay special attention to the means of implementation.

Preparations for Rio+20 have shown once again that sustainable development relies on the availability, accessibility and timely provision of adequate means of implementation, through both domestic and international efforts.

For a concrete outcome, Member States are encouraged to agree on a framework of action which could include, among others, a timeline for implementing sustainable development commitments and a set of sustainable development action goals.

Rio+20 is also an opportunity to commit to strengthening the institutional framework of sustainable development and to facilitate concrete solutions to issues related to the transfer of technology.

I therefore encourage Member States in their deliberations towards Rio+20 to address persistent challenges and set out concrete actions aimed at bridging the gaps in achieving its full and effective implementation.

As President of the General Assembly, I am deeply committed to the success of Rio+20. "Sustainable development and global prosperity" is one of my four pillars this session, and I intend to provide the appropriate settings whereby Member States can exchange lessons learned, bridge the gaps and build consensus toward the Rio+20.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Supporting sustainable development requires integrated solutions, a global partnership, including triangular cooperation, and broad public participation.

I therefore call on the renewed commitment and political will of the international community to support financing for development and national capacity-building efforts, in particular for least developed countries.

There is no doubt that the success of our efforts will require longer-term vision as well as the genuine willingness of Members States to ensure future generations to have a better quality of life.

Thank you.