

United Nations Nations Unies

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LE PRESIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

27 October 2011

Statement of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly, at the UN Day Concert “Celebrating Cultural Diversity”

His Excellency Mr. Batbold Sukhbaatar, Prime Minister of Mongolia,
His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Under-Secretary-General Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka,
Mr. Batchuluun Tsend, Conductor, People’s Artist of Mongolia
Excellencies, colleagues and friends,

My sincere thanks to the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations for organizing today’s concert.

I congratulate Mongolia for its 50 strong years as a member of the United Nations.

I understand that tonight we will hear a range of musical interludes - from world and traditional classics to modern and contemporary pieces to pop music compositions.

In many ways, the diversity of this concert reflects what the UN is striving to do in the world: to bring together different voices and melodies in one harmonious concert.

And so tonight we will celebrate cultural diversity and mark United Nations Day- the day in which the UN Charter entered into force.

Underpinning the UN Charter is the belief in the peaceful and harmonious co-existence of people and nations.

The belief that celebrating our diversity and our shared values will build a better world for all. This week, our planet will mark its 7 billionth inhabitant.

As our population as well as our inter-dependence grow, tolerance, mutual understanding and celebration of diversity are more important than ever before.

The United Nations has an important role to play in steering this progress and building a culture of peace.

In particular, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations brings together the international community to bridge differences and overcome the intolerance and divisions that potentially threaten world peace.

I also believe that encouraging mediation and the peaceful settlement of disputes will help reduce tensions and pave the way for peaceful co-existence in our diverse world.

During the 66th session of the General Assembly, I hope to see the UN Membership give high priority to advancing mediation efforts.

Dear friends,

Celebrating our diversity requires joining hands for our common purpose.

A united global partnership, based on open dialogue and close collaboration, is essential in this respect. Let us continue in our joint efforts to build a world of peace, diversity and prosperity for all. I hope you will enjoy tonight's concert. As I'm sure you will agree, music puts people in a good mood and is food for the soul.

Relax and have a good time!

Thank you.