

8 November 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,
President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on
Item 122: “Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in
the Membership of the Security Council and Related Matters”**

Your Excellencies,
Honoured delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my great pleasure as we begin our meeting today, to consider agenda item 122: the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.

This issue is central to the reform of the United Nations. There is tangible consensus within the majority of international community members, as to the need for the Organization and, in particular, the Security Council, to adapt to the international changes that have been continually taking place since 1945.

Our meeting today is of the utmost importance: it constitutes the starting point for the resumption of discussions on this vital question.

With more than a decade of experience at the United Nations, I am very well aware of just how important this issue is, and realize its centrality to the wider question of United Nations reform. From the beginning of my Presidency, I identified Security Council reform among the four pillars of my programme of work this session.

Here, I would like also to refer to my letter addressed to Member States on 16 September 2011, in which I emphasized my confidence in the leadership of the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ambassador Tanin, in chairing the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform. I should also like to affirm my full support to his endeavours to guide these negotiations forward. I hope that Member States will adopt a flexible and constructive approach during the forthcoming round of negotiations.

While I have no doubt that there continue to be genuine differences in the positions of different parties regarding various dimensions of the issue, I hope that the discussions during these intergovernmental negotiations will lead to the crystallization of well defined steps in the reform process. Steps that will rely on the efforts of Member States and will garner the broadest acceptance possible by Member States, in the manner defined in the General Assembly Decision 62/557.

I believe that if genuine progress is made in the reform of the Security Council, it will make a positive contribution towards the increased capacity and effectiveness of the United Nations in responding to global challenges. In this regard, I am sure that we all agree on the urgent need to bring the United Nations closer to the realities of the twenty-first century.

The General Debate of the sixty-sixth session reflected the shared views of world leaders on the pressing need for Security Council reform at the earliest opportunity, reform that would make the Council more efficient transparent, universal and democratic.

Here, I should like to make it clear that the primary responsibility for realizing our aspiration to reform the Security Council lies with you, the Member States. The chances of our success will be improved by our Collective will and by putting to good use the points on which agreement was reached during the intergovernmental negotiations.

Finally, I sincerely encourage you, to fully engage in the relevant discussion with Flexibility and effectiveness. I hope that our discussions today will proceed forward, and will make it possible to achieve the desired progress, in a manner harvests the widest range of political support among Member States.

I wish you every success.

Thank you.