

25 June 2012

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,  
President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
at the United Nations Public Service Day and Awards Ceremony  
“Innovation and Citizens Engagement for Effectives Governance”**

*Remarks delivered by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mutlaq M. Al-Qahtani, Chef de Cabinet of the President of the General Assembly*

Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, DESA,  
Mr. Cas Holloway, Deputy Mayor of New York City,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

Winners of the United Nations Public Service Awards,

Winners of the e-Government Survey Special Awards,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to be with you this morning, to deliver the following statement on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser.

Happy United Nations Public Service Day to all!

I would start by extending my warm congratulations to all the winners of the 2012 Public Service Awards and the winners of the e-Government Survey Special Awards.

Each of you is being recognised for your excellence in public service.

For me, public service means a selfless dedication to advancing the good of others.

I consider this service to be one of the greatest gifts we can offer, and I thank each of you for your outstanding initiatives, your selfless dedication, and your tireless efforts.

In 2002, the General Assembly designated the 23rd of June as United Nations Public Service Day. This year marks the tenth anniversary of this day, which has become a significant day for public officials across the globe.

On this day each year, the General Assembly encourages Member States to organize special events that highlight the contribution of public service and public servants to effective, transparent and inclusive public governance.

In recognition of this day, and to celebrate recent innovations in public service, the United Nations organizes an annual high-level event.

On this UN Public Service Day,

let us recognize successful initiatives in public administration;  
let us acknowledge the progress that has been made; and  
let us commit to more citizen-centric public administration.

Today, the United Nations Public Service Day remains as relevant as it was 10 years ago.

As our societies continue to grow and expand, and as needs grow with them, the public sector must embrace a pro-active, innovative and solutions-oriented approach to public governance issues.

This is particularly true in developing countries and countries in transition.

In these countries, strong public sector capacities and management helps bolster long-term national development.

I would, therefore, encourage continuous investment in public sector capacity-building, so that every government can deliver services that respond effectively to the needs of their people.

In this respect, I commend the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (DESA), for its continuing efforts to promote innovation in the public service through capacity-building activities, including this United Nations Public Service Awards Programme.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On this important occasion, I wish to pay tribute to the public officials and public servants, whether in a big metropolis or a small remote village, who work diligently to make a positive difference to the lives of millions of people.

Let us all, on UN Public Service Day, commit to supporting the crucial work of civil and public servants around the world.

To every public servant, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. I encourage you to continue on the path of innovation and excellence in serving your communities.

I wish you all great success in your future work.

Thank you and enjoy this special day!