



**President of the General Assembly
His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**

**Remarks
Reception Celebrating Switzerland's Ten Years at the United
Nations**

**Monday, 10 September 2012
New York**

Your Excellency, Mr. Paul Seger
Your Excellency, Mr. Joseph Deiss
Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson,
Excellencies
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to join you tonight to celebrate Switzerland's admission to the membership of the United Nations, 10 years ago.

I wish to thank Ambassador Seger for hosting tonight's event.

I'm particularly pleased to see my predecessor, as President of the UN General Assembly, Mr. Joseph Deiss. Welcome back to New York, Mr. Deiss.

We thank you for the wonderful legacy you left behind for us to build on.

Dear friends,

Tonight we celebrate Switzerland, and all that Switzerland represents at the United Nations.

In many ways, Switzerland is a model UN member.

Neutral and mutual.

Peaceful and respectful.

Consensus-oriented and constructive.

And, we cannot consider Switzerland and the UN without mentioning Geneva, the second biggest “hub” of the UN, after New York. The linkages between New York and Geneva continue to be vitally important for our United Nations.

Since joining the UN, our Swiss colleagues have become one of the most active, innovative and cooperative delegations.

Their key roles have been acknowledged in the design and setup of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and also in the creation of the Office of the Ombudsperson for those targeted by the UN Security Council’s Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee.

The Small-Five (or S-5) Initiative to improve the working methods of the Security Council, as well as efforts to improve the UN’s management and budgetary processes, are just some other examples of Switzerland’s valuable contributions at the UN.

On this Tenth anniversary of Switzerland at the UN, let me just say: Thank you, Switzerland, for your excellent work and leadership, and for your constructive engagement in the last ten years. I wish you the best for the future.

Danke. Merci. Grazie. Grazia fich. Thank you

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