

2 April 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
on the Occasion of the Adoption of the Statute on the Nelson
Rolihlahla Mandela Prize**

Delivered by H.E. Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland on behalf of President Kutesa

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am pleased to be here today to deliver this statement on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency, Sam Kahamba Kutesa.

Esteemed colleagues,

I welcome the adoption today of resolution, A/RES/69/269, through which the General Assembly has taken another important step in paying tribute to the extraordinary life and legacy of Mr. Nelson Mandela.

The United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize is not only dedicated to the memory of Mr. Mandela, but also aims to recognize the achievements of those who dedicated their lives to the service of humanity through the promotion of the purposes and principles of this Organization.

In accordance with this resolution, Member States, observers, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations will have an opportunity to submit their nominations for this Prize. I encourage all to actively participate in the nomination process and in the coming days, I will take steps to ensure that the inaugural Prize is awarded, in accordance with the Assembly's resolution.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Mandela who was the first democratically elected President of South Africa, remains an international symbol of hope, humility and leadership.

His legacy continues to inspire people the world over, spanning generations, races and religions. This unique Prize will serve as an inspiration to all who work tirelessly to contribute to and improve the well-being of others through the promotion of the United Nations' highest values; including, peace, reconciliation, human rights and development.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Ambassador Sabri Boukadoum, the Permanent Representative of Algeria, for his leadership and for ably conducting informal consultations on the statute, on my behalf. Further, I wish to express my appreciation to you, Member States, for your constructive role and support throughout those consultations.

As we have done each year since 2010, this 18 July, we will observe the Nelson Mandela International Day, in recognition of his values and dedication to the service of humanity. I invite you all to participate in the day's events as we celebrate Mr. Mandela's contributions and service to humanity.

I thank you for your attention.