



**Remarks at the close of the Second Committee deliberations  
by  
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Chairperson of the Second Committee of the 67th General Assembly**

**13 December 2012**

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have now come to the end of a session of the Second Committee that has been, as in previous years, challenging yet productive and successful. I wish to thank all of you for your hard work, carried out in an atmosphere of constructive collaboration and with a desire to move the international development agenda forward.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the vice-chairpersons for their dedication, cooperation and support. I commend each of them: Ms. Aida Hodžić of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who has served as our Rapporteur; Mr. Tauhedul Islam of Bangladesh, Mr. Stefano Stefanile of Italy, and Mr. Modest Jonathan Mero of the United Republic of Tanzania.

My special thanks to the facilitators of the consultations on the many resolutions, all of whom have worked tirelessly to ensure that the Committee would deliver on its expected substantive outcomes. The path for our deliberations has been made less cumbersome by the hard work of the Secretariat and other staff of the United Nations system. I am grateful to all of them.

**Excellencies,**

The work of this Committee is of fundamental importance for advancing the United Nations development agenda. During this session, there were 38 resolutions considered by the Committee. Appreciation is extended to all Member States for your flexibility and spirit of cooperation in coming to agreement on the vast majority of the resolutions which were adopted by consensus.

The Second Committee held its deliberations on the heels of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, with our work focus in no small measure on the follow-up to the agreements established in "The Future We Want." The issues discussed in the sustainable development cluster included implementation of the environmental pillar in the context of resolution 66/288, representing in a most fundamental manner the path that the global community should pursue for a balanced development in the interest of present and future generations.

Harmony with nature, sustainable development of the Caribbean sea, implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, protection of global climate, promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, and promotion of ecotourism, are only some of the important themes addressed in our deliberations this year.

At the front and centre of our discussion was the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) [which we have just adopted]. The Committee faced difficult negotiations but was able to reach agreement on ways to better assess the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of the United Nations operational activities. This is of great importance for the work of the UN system, and for a vast majority of Member States whose development options require this impartial support. The backdrop of a prevailing difficult global economic and financial context has imposed its own layer of complexity in these deliberations.

Global market uncertainties are confounded by threats of a double dip recession, fiscal cliffs, slow recovery of many developed economies, and slowing down of developing economies. Issues that have been relevant in recent years, such as the pace of economic recovery, jobless growth, commodity price volatility, and fears of a sovereign debt crisis were writ large in our deliberations.

Despite these difficulties, delegations were able to negotiate important resolutions that aim to provide policy direction for the macroeconomic and trade actions of the international community. It is my hope that our resolutions will help put the current economic context in perspective and inform policies to address the challenges it presents.

We know that countries in special situations – including SIDS, LDCs, LLDCs and post-conflict countries – are hit hardest by global economic uncertainty. Because of this, the international community must stay fully engaged in support of these groups of States. During this session, the Committee has taken a significant step to follow up on the Istanbul commitments, including by adopting resolutions on smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of LDCs, and the follow up to the fourth UN Conference on LDCs.

In the midst of grappling with current challenges, we must keep at the forefront existing threats of food and nutrition security, climate change impacts and above all, the continued struggle to combat poverty and deprivation in all forms. The Committee has also reaffirmed the importance of South-South cooperation, and strengthened multilateralism in addressing development requirements challenges.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

This year the Second Committee co-hosted two high-level joint events. The first was with the Economic and Social Council on the global economic outlook, held in conjunction with an expert group meeting of Project LINK and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. For the second high-level joint event, a new trail was set with the Third Committee, with our focus on the theme of ICTs for development.

I am convinced that this type of collaboration between the Second Committee, ECOSOC, and other United Nations bodies represent a form of cooperation and

synergy essential to ensuring that the UN system responds coherently to global priorities. The active participation of delegations in these special events was greatly appreciated, and I thank Member States for the resulting constructive dialogues.

Furthermore, the Second Committee benefited from its usual special events that brought together experts from both external institutions and from the UN system. Our special events this year focused on: sustainable development goals; sovereign debt crisis; entrepreneurship; migration; and science, technology and innovation. The events were highly successful in providing alternative views on relevant issues, stimulating discussion and informing our work.

**Dear Colleagues,**

I wish to recall to you the special efforts made to adhere to decision 65/530 on the methods of work of the Committee, aimed at increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of our work. To advance this further, we must continue to be proactive and be conscious of several actions we can take: observing deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions; drafting of resolutions in accordance with recommendations contained in pertinent GA resolutions, and; adhering to timeframes for completion of informal consultations. These actions will undoubtedly translate into the Committee being more productive and will enable completion of the session on time.

In addition, further discussion should take place on streamlining the work of the Committee with the work of ECOSOC and other UN bodies, and reorganizing the agenda items and resolutions of the Committee. Member States should anticipate that the methods of work of the Committee will also be addressed in the context of the GA review of resolution 61/16 next year.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Second Committee is one of the few forums in which all Member States sit at the same table to discuss economic and financial challenges. The ideas that emerge in our sessions and that are refined during negotiations, represent the voice of the international community on ways to advance development. The work of our session is of particular importance since it happens in the midst of a shift in development paradigms. We are transitioning from the traditional view of economic development to one of sustainable development in which economic, social, and environmental issues should be addressed jointly. Our work is helping pave the way in which development is viewed and understood. It is also shaping the way in which international cooperation is pursued to address current and future challenges. It is for this reason that the work of this Committee is of utmost importance. I congratulate you on your hard work!

While the Second Committee concludes today, our work on development will continue, particularly in our efforts to achieve the MDGs and in preparations for the post-2015 development agenda.

Let me extend, once more, my thanks and best wishes to all of you.

Thank you.