

18 October 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,  
President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
on Israeli-Palestinian Prisoner Releases**

*Statement attributable to the spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly*

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, welcomes the exchange of prisoners involving Staff Sergeant Gilad Shalit and hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

The President of the General Assembly wishes to thank the States and Governments, as well as all other parties that have worked tirelessly over many years to facilitate these releases.

This positive development reinforces the importance of mediation and negotiation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, a subject that President Al-Nasser has identified as one of the key focus areas during the 66th Session of the General Assembly.

President Al-Nasser hopes this exchange of prisoners will help boost renewed efforts to find a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He urges all parties to re-commit to fresh negotiations and extra efforts towards the realization of the two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and harmony.