

20 October 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,  
President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Closing of the Briefing to the Member States on the Report of  
the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability**

Her Excellency Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland,  
His Excellency, Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa,  
His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

My thanks to the co-chairs of the Panel, President Halonen of Finland and President Zuma of South Africa, for their briefing today. I would also thank the two panel members who joined us today, His Excellency Mr. Kevin Rudd, Foreign Minister of Australia, and Her Excellency Mrs. Luisa Diogo, former Prime Minister of Mozambique.

Today's discussion reminds us of the power of cooperation for finding inclusive, comprehensive answers. I thank each of you for sharing your views with us today.

It is clear that the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio+20 - presents an historic opportunity to catalyze a more equitable, resilient, low-carbon economy. An economy that is fit for the 21st century.

But there is a lot of work to do by June next year. I encourage Member States to act cooperatively and think creatively in their important deliberations. I am fully confident that Member States will be able to meet the challenges before them, within the assigned deadline.

Let us embrace this chance for new thinking and innovation. Let us truly make a difference, protecting our planet and its inhabitants for generations to come.

Thank you.