

9 December 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,  
President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
on the Closing and Awards Ceremony of the Global South-South  
Development Expo**

*Delivered by Ambassador Tariq Ali Al-Ansari, Deputy Chef de Cabinet, on behalf of the President of the General Assembly*

Your Excellency, Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN in New York and President of the UN General Assembly High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

Mr. José Graziano da Silva, Director-General Elect, FAO

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA

M. Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP.

Mr. Manoj Juneja, Deputy Director-General, FAO.

Ms. Amita Misra, Director of UNIDO's Bureau for Regional Programmes, representing the UNIDO Director-General.

Mr. Amir Abdulla, WFP Deputy Executive Director, representing the WFP Executive Director

And, our Wonderful FAO Goodwill Ambassadors ... who will be performing shortly ...

Excellencies

Distinguished Dignitaries

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, I have the honour, as his Deputy Chef de Cabinet, to make these remarks, as a follow-up to the opening statement he delivered, in person, here last Monday.

“The success of this week's Global South-South Development Expo stands as a strong testimony to the creativity of developing countries to achieve global food security, especially in the South.

This year's Expo has demonstrated the power of the Global South to respond quickly to development challenges and meet global needs for adequate food and nutrition.

We can leave here today, knowing that the South-South spirit of striving for collective self-reliance is stronger than ever before.

This week, there have been many dynamic examples of successful solutions on display – solutions that address the pressing demand for food security.

Documenting, showcasing and exchanging these solutions and lessons-learned will allow for their scaling-up and easy replication across the globe.

This is imperative for us to truly energise the agenda for South-South and Triangular cooperation.

With this in mind, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the staff of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, hosted by UNDP, under the leadership of its Director, Mr. Yiping Zhou, for their tremendous efforts in co-organising this Expo. We must also recognize and thank the UNDP Administrator, Miss Helen Clark, for her support and commitment to the success of this Expo.

A great deal of appreciation must also go to the Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, for graciously hosting this year's Expo. And I wish the new Director-General every success in all his endeavours. We thank all the partners and members of the international development community that have come together to ensure the success of this Expo.

During our time together, we have been reminded of the large number of hungry people in the world, but we have also been encouraged by the sharing of successful and innovative solutions from all over the world.

From many Southern countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, these solutions and innovative partnerships have captured our interest and ignited our imagination.

Ladies and gentlemen ...

What is the end result of our efforts here this week?

We have come together during this week, as stakeholders, representing various governments, NGOs, bilateral, and also, multilateral organizations, to renew our sense of common vision for stronger South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

For this common purpose, we aim to bring direct benefit to the people around the world, who are badly affected by poverty and hunger and to help those in need of food, especially in the Global South.

I urge you to continue to overcome any differences between our countries, between our regions, between the north and the south, between our organizations, and even between us, as individuals, in order to maintain unity of purpose and consensus.

So, as we now prepare to go back to our homes and offices, it is also time to plan for the years ahead, envisioning how best we might translate the knowledge and experiences shared here into real sustainable solutions.

We must touch and empower lives across the globe to achieve food security. It is you who can reshape our world and the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Achieving food security is our collective purpose moving on from this Expo.

In this regard, and as I mentioned in my statement in September, to the Ministerial Meeting of the G77 and China at UN Headquarters, New York, I would appreciate your recommendations and support for the convening of a UN GA debate on ways of enhancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation during my presidency.

I, as President of the UN General Assembly, can confidently say on my own behalf, and on behalf of my team, as well as on behalf of the Member States of the General Assembly, that we will stand with you ... And we will lend our support for the success of South-South and Triangular Cooperation to conquer poverty and hunger throughout the world.”

I thank you.