

23 May 2012

**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 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on  
the Role of Member States in Mediation**

Distinguished Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

We have had a lively and fruitful discussion.

I would sincerely like to thank our moderator Dr. Edward Luck, and our distinguished panel of Ministers, who are among the most eminent international mediators, and Mr. Pascoe.

Let me also express my appreciation to the participants, from Member States, Observers, academia and civil society, who joined us today.

I thank each of you for your active engagement and thoughtful interventions.

Dr. Luck aptly highlighted some of the points raised in the course of the discussion.

Excellencies,

Since morning, we were able to thoroughly look into, and discuss the role of, Member States in mediation, and the importance of coherence and coordination.

We heard different cases, each with their own dynamics.

As mentioned by the participants, there are several common challenges we face for a successful mediation effort.

These include abiding by key fundamentals, effective leadership, coordination, capacity building, inclusiveness, and increasing the role of women, among others.

These challenges should be carefully analyzed so that mediation efforts can bear the desired result, and any dispute could be prevented before turning into violent conflict.

I believe that with the ongoing crises in different parts of the globe, including Middle East and Africa, the need for effective mediation is more urgent than ever.

As I said at the opening this morning, in spite of the proliferation of mediators, the United Nations retains a central role in our collective efforts, mainly due to the legitimacy it provides.

With the growing interest and involvement in mediation processes by Member States and other actors, however, we should explore different options, tools and possibilities.

We have already heard some good ideas and suggestions that could be further evaluated and developed.

For instance:

The establishment of a UN Mediation Center in Istanbul;

The launch of an initiative for promotion of mediation in the Mediterranean;

The establishment of national coordination groups that would bring together all the main actors in a country; and other proposals.

It is necessary that different players support and reinforce each other's efforts, instead of competing. By pursuing such an approach, the international community as a whole can make meaningful contributions to prevent and resolve conflicts.

In concluding, I take note of the points, views and suggestions mentioned in the course of the discussion.

We will reflect them in the summary of the meeting that will be prepared and made available in the coming weeks.

Let me thank each of you once again for your interest and active contributions to the discussions.

Thank you.