



**President of the General Assembly
His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**

**Remarks to the Media
End-of-Term Press Conference**

**Friday, 14 September 2012
New York**

Good Morning Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to see you here, at my last Press Conference as President of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Just a year ago, we embarked on a remarkable journey to serve the United Nations and the people of the world, as I assumed the Presidency of the General Assembly.

The journey of the General Assembly over the past twelve months has been momentous, historic and challenging, with Member States called upon to address conflicts, significant political changes and other pressing issues around the world.

During this Sixty-Sixth Session, the UN General Assembly has been working hard, to deal promptly and responsibly with these global demands in a strong, active and truly responsive fashion.

Please, permit me to share with you quickly, some of the highlights of my Presidency:

On the Arab Awakening: we have worked together to support the legitimate aspirations of the peoples in the Middle East and North Africa region.

On Syria: The Member States chose not to be silent but active and responsive over the deadly crisis in Syria.

The General Assembly has held a number of timely meetings to support efforts to help the people of Syria resolve the appalling crisis in their country. General Assembly resolutions have been passed to strongly condemn the continued widespread and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities. The Assembly strongly urged the Government to end the killings of its own citizens immediately. The Assembly remains deeply concerned about the Syrian crisis and I am certain that Member States will support my successor in bringing a lasting resolution to this crisis.

On Mediation and the peaceful settlement of disputes: Mediation has been a key subject during the General Debate culminating in the adoption – just yesterday - of an important follow-up resolution on Mediation (Resolution A/66/291)

We have pushed hard to re-energise efforts towards UN Reform & Revitalization, with the aim of enhancing the efficiency of the General Assembly.

On Security Council Reform: The Eighth round of Inter-governmental negotiations took place under my presidency and Member States acknowledged that new momentum and engagement have been generated in the process. Just yesterday the Assembly adopted an important oral decision reaffirming the determination of Member States to build on the progress achieved this session. I thank Member States for their support and spirit of cooperation in this regard.

Only Member States can drive and achieve success in these efforts, with the guiding principle of gaining the broadest possible acceptance. I hope that momentum will continue during the 67th session

Through my close working relationship and collaboration with the Secretary-General: We embarked on joint visits to both Libya and Somalia, where we reaffirmed the UN's support and solidarity to these two countries.

Under my pillar of Sustainable Development and Global Prosperity:
We gave full support to the organisation and success of the historic Rio+20 Summit. The implementation of the Outcome Document will now require stronger political commitment from all Member States in order to deliver The Future We Want. We discussed the State of the World Economy as well.

We have also promoted the work of UN Women and gave ample support to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women.

These are just some of the highlights from these past twelve months.

As President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly, I sought, with all my experience of more than 30 years in international diplomacy, and with the support of distinguished delegates, to enhance the reputation and credibility of this great Organisation.

We have achieved quite a lot but, I am mindful of the fact that there is only that much that anyone can do in a one-year term. I thank Member States for rallying to my support in addressing the topical issues that came our way.

Before I take your questions, I wish to thank you – the members of the media – for the attention, support and coverage you have given me and the General Assembly during this session.

I also wish to acknowledge the exceptional and outstanding work done by my Spokesperson, Miss Nihal Saad and by my Communications Advisor, Mr. Ben Malor. My special thanks and deep appreciation to both of you.

Thank you.

Now, we can have your questions ...
