

22 April 2014

**Message of H.E. John W. Ashe
President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
for International Mother Earth Day**

Each year on April 22, the global community comes together to celebrate the earth. This year on International Mother Earth Day, I call on the United Nations family to promote sustainable development and the use of renewable energy sources throughout our cities and communities.

As we look to promote the Post-2015 Development Agenda, I call on Member States, civil society and other stakeholders to answer the call put forth in the 2009 UN resolution by the General Assembly to invest more in sustainable technology and to promote our ecosystems through global environmental public policies.

In December 2013, the General Assembly made another positive step toward the achievement of this agenda and requested an interactive dialogue on the Harmony with Nature to be held on this day. I look forward to the discussions today and will encourage Member States to work toward promoting a new holistic paradigm, one that underscores the supreme importance of the natural world, while also acknowledging its limits.

As we confront the unique sustainable development challenges of our time; our understanding of the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations must be rooted in the most up to date scientific information. Our global strategy must promote sound environmental ethics, and continually emphasize humanity's interconnectedness with nature.