



**Remarks**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe**

**President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations**

**General Assembly**

**General Assembly – 91<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting**

Agenda Item 4: “Election of the President of the General Assembly:  
Election of the President of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth  
session [item 4]”

**New York**

**11 June 2014**

*Please check against delivery*

President-elect,  
Excellencies,  
Secretary-General,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Minister Kutesa, on your election by acclamation as the President of the United Nations General Assembly at its 69th session.

As President-elect, you bring to this role significant experience and an extensive background in politics, law and the private sector. You have served as your country's Foreign Minister since 2005, where you have led and overseen major activities and events, including Uganda's term in the UN Security Council in 2009-2010; you also have over thirty years of legislative experience as an elected Member of the Parliament of Uganda. Undoubtedly, these positions, among other prominent roles you have held, will serve you well as you take on the tasks of the next President of our General Assembly.

Mr. President-elect, you will assume this office at a critical time for the United Nations when Member States will begin the long and arduous process of elaborating the post-2015 Development Agenda, the end result of which must be inclusive and people-centered and must be of immense significance and importance for both the people of today and for many generations to come. As President-elect, you will be expected to guide this process throughout the 69th session, so that at the start of the 70<sup>th</sup> session, the Member States are well-positioned to adopt a new global development framework that is ambitious, focused and leads to meaningful change. With your election today by acclamation, member States have bestowed in you the initial trust that is necessary to commence this mammoth task.

Over the next three months, my team and I will continue "setting the stage" for the new agenda, including by convening a two-day high-level stocktaking event on September 8 and 9. This event will enable member States and other stakeholders to share their views on inputs to the Secretary-General's Synthesis report that will form

the basis of the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Finally, I wish to assure you, President-elect Kutesa, that in the period leading up to your formal assumption of this office on September 16, my team and I are available for any support required and offer our full cooperation. We will continue to work with your team so as to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

Once again, I congratulate and welcome you, President-elect Kutesa, and wish you every success as President of our General Assembly, at its 69<sup>th</sup> session.

Thank you.

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