



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 December 2010

Excellency,

As we move towards the end of the main part of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, I thank you and your delegations for the overall constructive and cooperative spirit that has prevailed in our deliberations.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Vice-Presidents as well as the Chairs of the six Main Committees for their leadership and valuable support in ensuring the management of the Assembly's business.

Among the highlights of the past months, I would like to recall the following important events:

- I was greatly encouraged by the strong resonance the Member States have given to the theme which I proposed for the General Debate: "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance". As a practical follow-up to the General Debate, I organized two informal plenary meetings of the General Assembly before and after the recent Seoul Summit of the G20. I am pleased that many Member States used these opportunities in the presence of the Secretary-General and representatives of the G20 Presidencies to interact and thus contribute to a constructive dialogue between the UN and the G20. On 8 December, the General Assembly furthermore adopted a resolution entitled "The United Nations in global governance" which was cosponsored by 100 Member States and provides a solid basis to continue discussions on this important topic beyond the current session.
- At the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in September, Member States underlined their determination to achieve the MDGs by 2015. I also welcome the significant new commitments that were made. The challenge is now to ensure that words are translated into action and to reflect on how the General Assembly can contribute to better monitor implementation.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

- The two other high-level meetings that took place in September enabled the General Assembly to make a strong input to the International Year of Biodiversity and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity in Nagoya as well as to address the specific concerns and vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States.
- Finally, the General Assembly adopted on 29 October a resolution, concurrently with the Security Council, on the review of the Peacebuilding Commission. This brings to a successful conclusion the review process launched during the sixty-fourth session and paves the way for all concerned actors to take up, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in the Cofacilitators' Report.

As we look ahead to 2011, I would like to mention the following important events and issues that will be the focus of the General Assembly's work:

- A key priority will be the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. According to the modalities resolution that was adopted by the General Assembly, this will take place from 8-10 June and be preceded, no later than in April, by an informal interactive hearing with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. I wish to thank Ambassador Gary Quinlan of Australia and Ambassador Charles Ntwaagae of Botswana for facilitating the consensus on the modalities resolution and trust that Member States will continue to engage in the next stages of preparation with the same spirit of cooperation.
- We will need to move forward in a decisive manner on a number of important reform issues and on reviewing the work of important organs of the United Nations. I wish to thank Ambassador Zahir Tanin of Afghanistan for chairing the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis of Lithuania and Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for co-chairing the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly, Ambassador Christian Wenaweser of Liechtenstein and Ambassador Mohammed Loulichki of Morocco for facilitating the review of the status of the Human Rights Council, as well as Ambassador Octavio Errázuriz of Chile for serving as Facilitator on the review of the implementation of resolution 61/16 concerning ECOSOC. Both the review processes of the status of the Human Rights Council and of the implementation of resolution 61/16 are to be completed during this session.
- We will also work on the modalities and further preparations for the various high-level meetings that will take place in September 2011 during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. In this context, I wish to already thank Ambassador Raymond Wolfe of Jamaica and Ambassador Sylvie Lucas of Luxembourg for facilitating the modalities resolution on the High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases.

I will also convene a number of informal thematic debates and other informal meetings of the General Assembly. Several of them have already been mentioned in my letter of 18 October. At this stage, I can announce the following meetings:

- On 14 January (10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.), there will be an informal plenary to hear a briefing by the Secretary-General on his priorities for 2011.
- An informal thematic debate on disaster risk reduction will take place on 9 February.
- I plan to hold an informal thematic debate in early March in order for the the General Assembly to contribute to the preparations for the Istanbul Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The exact topic is still under consideration.
- On 16 March, there will be an informal interactive dialogue with President Tarja Halonen of Finland and President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, the Co-Chairs of the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability.
- The informal thematic debate on international migration and development, which has been mandated by General Assembly resolution 63/225, will be held on 19 May.
- An informal thematic debate on green economy is tentatively scheduled for 26 May.
- As I have already mentioned on various occasions, I also intend to convene an informal thematic debate on broader aspects of global governance. This is being tentatively planned for 23 June. I also intend to convene a further informal plenary to continue the interaction of the General Assembly with the French G20 Presidency.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his leadership, dedication and excellent cooperation. My thanks also go to the Secretariat staff in the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. Without their support the General Assembly would not be able to operate smoothly.

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to all of you, your staff and families for the coming holidays. Your support and hard work has greatly contributed to a successful main part of the session. Let us build on this spirit of cooperation and determination to meet the challenges ahead of us and thus reaffirm the central role of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Joseph Deiss