

17 June 2013

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić,  
President of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Election of the President of the 68th Session  
of the United Nations General Assembly**

Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heart felt congratulations to His Excellency Ambassador John W. Ashe, the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, for his election as President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, as the sole candidate put forth by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Ambassador Ashe brings to this position extensive multilateral experience, having represented his country before the United Nations in New York for close to 25 years. He has held leadership positions in more than 40 committees and organizations, serving, for instance, as Chairman of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

It is precisely this topic which represents one of the most important themes of the 68th Session, during which critical debates on completing the Millennium Development Goals will take place, as well as further discussions about how to conceive and set the stage for carrying out the post-2015 agenda. I am sure that Ambassador Ashe will make every effort to bring the deliberations of the various General Assembly workstreams deriving from the Rio+20 concluding document to their respective successful conclusions.

I have no doubt that he will lead the General Assembly in a truly able and dedicated manner, and I wish him all the best in taking up the responsibilities of the office, with the utmost respect for the equal rights and dignity of each Member State.

Mr. President-elect,

In the months to come, during which you and your team will step up preparations for the assumption of your duties, I pledge to work with you to ensure a smooth transition between our two presidencies.

To that end, I place myself and my staff at your disposal, in order to lay the groundwork for an efficient start to the 68th Session.

Once more, congratulations to you, Mr. President-elect.