

9 July 2013

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić,
President of the 67th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Tribute to the Memory of H.E. Mr. Stoyan Dimitrov Ganev,
Former President of the United Nations General Assembly**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was with profound sadness that I learned of the passing on July 1st in Greenwich, Connecticut, of His Excellency Mr. Stoyan Dimitrov Ganev, the President of the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

On behalf of the General Assembly and in my own name as President, allow me to offer my deepest condolences to his bereaved family.

Mr. Ganev's was an illustrious career, both within and outside the United Nations. As President, he guided an Assembly of 179 Member States, tackling a diverse range of issues facing the globe in the last decade of the 20th century.

By all accounts, he was an astute diplomat, capable at facilitating the building of consensus on topics that included regional disarmament, the establishment of a fund to protect the environment, humanitarian aid to Somalia, and UN peacekeeping.

Stoyan Ganev was born in Pazardjik in Bulgaria in 1955. He studied at Sofia University's Faculty of Law, and went on to serve as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in his country's first democratic government. He diligently and expertly negotiated Bulgaria's accession treaty with the European Union in 2005.

Above all, Mr. Ganev was respected by Member States as a fair and productive President of the General Assembly, a man who will be remembered for his commitment to the founding principles of the United Nations.

May he rest in peace.

Thank you for your attention.