

30 June 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
at the “Transformative Power of Music” Concert Opening**

**Thank you, Under-Secretary-General, Gallach,
Excellencies,
Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is my honour to welcome you to the 2015 United Nations General Assembly summer concert, as this year we celebrate, “The Transformative Power of Music”.

Since the dawn of humanity, music has served a unique role in our societies; eliciting emotion, inspiring change and unifying peoples. Music has the power to transport us from our daily realities; bringing to life our traditions, cultural experiences and practices.

Indeed, music is an important part of the daily rhythm of our lives.

Tonight, music will not only fuel our joy and entertainment, but it will also serve as a rallying call for the United Nations 2015: Time for Global Action campaign. We will use the sounds and sights of the evening to draw attention to the devastating effects of climate change on peoples and communities around the world.

But first and foremost, ladies and gentlemen, tonight is about celebration.

You will experience the United Nations in a way that you may never have thought possible. This Hall will be transformed into a sensory extravaganza of world music that showcases the musical diversity of our family of nations.

We are fortunate to be joined tonight by celebrated artists from around the world, representing five continents and an array of musical repertoires; from classical to hip-hop to reggae.

Yet, they all share the conviction that music has the power to mobilize people and transform lives.

I invite you to sit back and absorb the music, allowing it to captivate and transport you to a wonderful place.

I thank you.