



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 December 2009

Excellency,

As we conclude the main part of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and collective efforts which have enabled us to achieve important progress on our agenda and set the stage to build further on this work during next year.

Subsequent to the General Debate, the Assembly has completed its programme of work for the first quarter. The Assembly has held 68 plenary meetings and adopted 245 resolutions. I would like to thank in particular the Chairmen of the Main Committees for the excellent stewardship of their respective Committees.

We have adopted by consensus the budget for the biennium 2010-2011. This will allow for the effective functioning of the organization and enable it to deliver all its mandates. Flexibility and constructive engagement by all delegations also enabled us to reach consensus on the scales of assessment for the regular and the peacekeeping budgets.

Beyond New York, at the multilateral arena, major meetings have been held including the Summit on Food Security in Rome, the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi and the Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen. This was a strong expression of commitment of Member States to pursue multilateral approaches to tackle the multifarious challenges of today.

In the year ahead, a host of these challenges – from development to peace and security to human rights, will continue to be the focus of our work at the General Assembly.

In the context of development, a key priority is the 2010 High-Level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth Session with the participation of Heads of State and Government. All Member States must work together to ensure the success of this important event. A solid foundation has already been laid. Through resolution 64/184, the scope, modalities and format of that Meeting have been agreed by consensus. I would like to thank Ambassador Paul Badji of Senegal and Ambassador Carsten Staur of Denmark for facilitating this agreement. I trust that it is with the same spirit of cooperation that the Member States will engage in the next stage of preparation for the High-Level Meeting following the submission of the report by the Secretary-General in March 2010. I sincerely hope that the urgent need to accelerate progress towards the achievement of all the MDGs by 2015 will be fully addressed by the outcome of the High-Level Meeting. By June 2010, the Assembly will also hold two days of informal interactive hearings with non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector to engage in the process.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations

The High-level Dialogue on the Financing for Development has been scheduled for 16-17 March 2010. This dialogue will also contribute to the 2010 High-Level Plenary Meeting as well as the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to follow up on the Outcome of the Conference on World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. That Working Group is mandated to report to the Assembly before the end of the sixty-fourth session. To achieve this goal, I have reappointed Ambassador Morten Wetland of Norway and Ambassador Lazarous Kapambwe of Zambia as co-chairs of the Working Group to resume its deliberations.

Also in early March 2010, the Assembly will hold a commemorative meeting to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on the advancement of women. On 22 March, we will hold a High-level interactive dialogue on the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" 2005-2015.

Member States have also decided to convene a two day high level review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation in September 2010 as part of the sixty fifth session, in order to assess progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing states. It has also been decided to convene a one day high level meeting as close as possible to the opening of the general debate of the sixty-fifth session, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity. We would accordingly prepare for these important meetings. I also hope that we would soon agree on the dates for these meetings.

During the sixty-third session, appreciable progress was achieved on system-wide coherence. There is a general sense of goodwill among Member States to build on that progress with a view to achieving further substantive action in all areas of system-wide coherence. I therefore encourage Member States to work with the facilitators, Ambassador Ghazi Jomaa of Tunisia and Ambassador Tiina Intelmann of Estonia, to take forward the intergovernmental consultations on this crucial issue, which is linked closely to the overall development agenda and particularly to the 2010 High-Level Plenary Meeting.

The General Assembly will also consider follow-up to its resolution 64/10 of 5 November 2009 on the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict following the submission of the report by the Secretary-General in February 2010 on the implementation of that resolution.

The debate on the Revitalization of the General Assembly has highlighted the need to further examine several key matters, among which are ways and means to make the Assembly more responsive to emerging situations concerning international peace and security and the imperative of striking a balance between the work of the principal organs of the United Nations. Emphasis has also been placed on strengthening the Office of the President of the General Assembly, review of the process of appointment of the UN Secretary-General and the continued effective utilization of the informal thematic debates of the General Assembly. I am confident these and other important issues will be thoroughly discussed in the Ad-Hoc Working Group to be co-chaired by Ambassador Jorge Argüello of Argentina and Ambassador Sanja Štiglic of Slovenia.

We shall also move forward on the important issue of Security Council reform. The inter-governmental negotiations have recommenced with the Session held on 8-9 December under the chairmanship of Ambassador Zahir Tanin. There is a genuine desire by Member States to achieve progress, building on the important work done during the previous session and continuing the negotiations within the framework of Decision 62/557. Working together in an open and inclusive process with mutual understanding and respect, we can succeed in our efforts.

We are also approaching the mandated five-year reviews of the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. On the latter, as I have already informed through my letter of 11 December, Ambassador Claude Heller of Mexico, Ambassador Baso Sangqu of South Africa and Ambassador Anne Anderson of Ireland have agreed to serve as facilitators. I am continuing consultations with regard to establishing a process for the review of the Human Rights Council. I am confident that with full participation of all Member States, we shall achieve open and inclusive review processes aimed at strengthening these two bodies to utilize their full potentials.

At the outset of the sixty-fourth session, I proposed as its overarching theme: "Effective responses to global crisis – strengthening multilateralism and dialogue among civilizations for international peace, security and development". The relevance and significance of this theme is evident from the diverse and important agenda before us. It is my intention to expound this theme further, to discuss in several thematic debates, some of the most crucial and pressing issues before us. During the first half of 2010, I will organize informal interactive thematic debates on the following subjects: a) disarmament, b) peacekeeping, c) dialogue among civilization and d) the Middle East peace process. Details about the organization of these thematic debates will be communicated to Member States in due course. I believe these meetings will promote a frank and constructive exchange of views among Member States, key leaders, experts, and practitioners, from within and outside the UN, from public and private sectors and the civil society.

Excellency,

2010 promises to be an exciting and challenging year. The multitude of issues at hand requires a concerted action by the international community with the United Nations in the forefront. Resolved to work collectively, with mutual trust and good will in the best spirit of cooperation and multilateralism, I am sure we can pursue the right approaches and achieve concrete results in the larger interest of the peoples of the world.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his tireless efforts, leadership and cooperation with Member States in pursuing our common agenda.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the members of the General Committee and to the Vice Presidents of the General Assembly for their support and availability in managing the busy schedule of the Assembly.

I look forward to working closely with all of you and wish you all happy holidays.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ali Abdussalam Treki