THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 July 2011

Excellency,

As we move towards the summer break, I would like to share with you information on the organizational arrangements of the three High-level Meetings that will take place during the high-level week of the 66th session in September.

- By its resolution 65/238, the General Assembly decided that a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases shall be held on **19** and **20 September 2011**.
- By its resolution 65/160, the General Assembly decided that a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the theme "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" shall be held on **20 September 2011**.
- By its resolution 65/240, the General Assembly decided that a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action shall be held on **22 September 2011**.

Further information on the organizational arrangements of aforementioned High-level Meetings will be provided by the Secretariat in its information note to delegations. Provisional programmes for the meetings will also be conveyed at a later date.

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

Joseph Deiss

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

Organizational arrangements for the High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (Monday 19 – Tuesday 20 September 2011, New York)

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 64/265 of 13 May 2010, decided to convene a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly in September 2011, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. In its resolution of 65/238 of 24 December 2010, the General Assembly further decided that this High-level Meeting shall be held on 19 and 20 September 2011 in New York.

2. By paragraph 5 of resolution 65/238, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements of the meeting.

Plenary meetings

3. Pursuant to paragraph 4(a) of resolution 65/238, formal plenary meetings will be held on 19 September 2011 (see Annex) and will feature opening statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Director-General of the World Health Organization and a representative of civil society who will be chosen from non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and in consultation with Member States. The President of the General Assembly is currently considering recommendations for the civil society speaker, in consultation with Member States and the Civil Society Task Force established by the President.

4. To enable maximum participation within the limited time available, statements in plenary meetings should not exceed five minutes when speaking in the national capacity and eight minutes when speaking on behalf of a group. It is anticipated that within the time constraints, there will be time for a maximum of 65 interventions. A list of speakers, maintained in accordance with the level of participation and on a first come, first served basis, will be open for inscription with a contact point at the Secretariat (to be announced in the Journal) from 1 - 30 August 2011. Delegations are asked to kindly indicate the level of representation when inscribing on the speakers list.

5. A closing plenary meeting will be held on 20 September 2011 from 15:00 – 16:00, comprising the presentation of summaries of the round tables and the adoption of a concise action-oriented outcome document.

Round tables

6. Pursuant to paragraph 4(c) of resolution 65/238, the thematic round tables will address the following themes:

Round table 1: The rising incidence, developmental and other challenges and

the social and economic impact of non-communicable diseases and their risk factors.

Round table 2: Strengthening national capacities, as well as appropriate policies, to address prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

Round table 3: Fostering international cooperation, as well as coordination, to address non-communicable diseases.

Round tables 1 and 2 will take place concurrently with the plenary meetings on 19 September 2011, as indicated in paragraph 4(b) of resolution 65/238. Round table 3 will take place on the morning of 20 September.

7. Participation in each round table will include Member States, observers, and representatives of entities of the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector.

8. Each round table will be chaired by two Co-Chairs, selected by the President of the General Assembly and taking full account of the level of representation as well as equitable geographical distribution. Member States are requested to indicate to the Office of the President of the General Assembly by 15 August 2011 if their Head of State is interested to participate as a Co-Chair.

9. Pursuant to paragraph 4(d) of resolution 65/238, a list of speakers will not be maintained. However, Member States and General Assembly Observers are encouraged to inform a contact point at the Secretariat (to be announced in the Journal) from 1 - 30 August 2011 which round table they wish to intervene in and at what level of representation. Up to fifty Member States and observers should be able to intervene in each round table, and the Office of the President of the General Assembly will do its utmost to accommodate all preferences, taking into account the level of representation as well as equitable geographical distribution.

10. To promote interactive, free-flowing discussions, participants in the round tables will be invited to make brief remarks that do not exceed five minutes, raise questions and respond to other speakers. Written statements are strongly discouraged.

11. Five civil society organizations and three representatives of UN funds and programmes and the specialised agencies will be invited to take the floor in each round table, time permitting.

12. Pursuant to paragraph 15 of resolution 65/238, the General Assembly will have to approve a list of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia for participation in the High-level Meeting, including the round tables. A decision will be submitted to the Assembly shortly.

Further information

13. Further general information on the organizational arrangements for the High-level Meeting will be provided by the Secretariat in its information note to delegations.

ANNEX: High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

Monday, 19 September 2011	
9:00 - 10:00 Opening plenary	
10:00 - 13:00 Plenary meeting	10:00 - 13:00 Round table 1: The rising incidence, developmental and other challenges and the social and economic impact of non-communicable diseases and their risk factors.
15:00 - 18:00 Plenary meeting	15: 00 -18:00 Round table 2: Strengthening national capacities, as well as appropriate policies, to address prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
Tuesday, 20 September 2011	
	10:00 - 13:00 Round table 3: Fostering international cooperation, as well as coordination, to address non-communicable diseases.
15:00 – 16:00 Closing plenary	

Organizational arrangements for the High-level Meeting on "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" (Tuesday, 20 September 2011, New York)

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 65/160, decided to convene a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the theme "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" on 20 September 2011.

2. The General Assembly also decided that "the preparations for the meeting will be undertaken under the authority of the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session" (para. 11(d)).

3. Pursuant to paragraph 11(a) of the said resolution, which decided that "the meeting will be organized within existing resources", the high-level meeting will take the following format:

10 – 10:45 am	Opening plenary meeting (General Assembly Hall) 1. President of the General Assembly 2. Secretary-General 3. Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 4. President of the 9th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD 5. President of the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD 6. Group of 77 and China 7. European Union 8. Group of African States
11 am – 1 pm	Morning interactive panel on the same theme as the meeting (Conference Room 4, North Lawn Building) • Co-chaired by Heads of State or Government, one from the North and one from the South
3 – 5:30 pm	Afternoon interactive panel on the same theme as the meeting (Conference Room 4, North Lawn Building) • Co-chaired by Heads of State or Government, one from the North and one from the South
5:45 – 6 pm	Closing plenary meeting (General Assembly Hall) • President of the General Assembly will present a summary of the discussions based on the report of the co-chairs

** Speakers in the opening plenary meeting will be limited to the eight mentioned above, as the interactive panel will take place from 11 am to 1 pm.*

4. To enable maximum participation within the limited time available, statements in the plenary meetings and the interactive panels should not exceed five minutes when speaking in the national capacity and eight minutes when speaking on behalf of a group. It is anticipated that in the morning panel, there will be time for approximately 20 speakers, followed by approximately 30 speakers in the afternoon panel.

5. A list of speakers, maintained in accordance with the level of representation and on a first-come, first-served basis, will be open for inscription with a contact point at the Secretariat (to be announced in the Journal) from 1 - 30 August 2011. Delegations are asked to kindly indicate the level of representation and the preferred interactive panel (morning or afternoon) when inscribing on the speakers' list.

6. The panels will be co-chaired by two Heads of State or Government, one from the North and one from the South, "to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, with due regard for geographical balance, in consultation with regional groups" (para. 11(b)).

7. Each regional group is requested to indicate to the Office of the President of the General Assembly by 2 September 2011, which Head of State or Government will be available to co-chair.

8. Representatives of two non-governmental organizations, one from the North and one from the South, will be invited to take the floor during the interactive panels, time permitting.

9. Further general information on the organizational arrangements for the High-level Meeting will be provided by the Secretariat in its information note to delegations.

Organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
(Thursday, 22 September 2011, New York)

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 65/240 of 24 December 2010, decided to hold a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The high-level meeting will be held on Thursday, 22 September 2011, and its theme will be "Victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: recognition, justice and development". The General Assembly, by its resolution 65/279 of 13 June 2011, further specified the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting.

Plenary meetings

2. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 65/279, the General Assembly decided that the speakers at the opening plenary will be the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Head of State of South Africa, one speaker from each regional group and a representative of a non-governmental organization active in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

3. The current Chair of each regional group has been asked to recommend to the President of the General Assembly one speaker on behalf of their group to participate in the opening plenary.

4. Regarding the selection of the NGO representative for the opening plenary, the General Assembly invited the President of the General Assembly, by paragraph 5 of resolution 65/279, to draw up a list of representatives of civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations active in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance and, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a no-objection basis, for participation in the high-level meeting. The deadline for NGO pre-registration was 15 July and the NGOs that have registered are currently being reviewed. The list will be circulated shortly to Member States for consideration on a non-objection basis. Thereafter, the President will select an NGO representative to participate in the opening plenary.

5. In accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 65/279, the closing plenary meeting will comprise the presentation of summaries of the discussions by the Co-Chairs of the round tables and the adoption of a short and concise political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will. Consultations are currently ongoing on the content of this political declaration.

Round tables

6. Following the opening plenary, two consecutive round tables will take place (see Annex). As decided in paragraph 3(a) of resolution 65/279, the round tables will address the overall theme of "Victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: recognition, justice and development".

7. As indicated in paragraph 3(c) of resolution 65/279, participation in each round table will include Member States, observers, representatives of entities of the United Nations system and experts as well as selected representatives of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations that are active in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

8. The following experts have been invited to participate in the round tables: The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the Chairperson of the Working Group on People of African Descent; the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; as well as one of the Independent Eminent Experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

9. The round tables will be co-chaired by two Heads of State or Government to be invited by the President of the General Assembly after consultations with the regional groups. In selecting the Co-Chairs, the President of the General Assembly will take full account of the level of representation as well as equitable geographical distribution. Member States are requested to indicate to the Office of the President of the General Assembly by 15 August if their Head of State or Government is interested to participate as a Co-Chair.

10. To promote interactive, free-flowing discussions, participants in the round tables will be invited to make brief remarks that do not to exceed five minutes, raise questions and respond to other speakers. Written statements are strongly discouraged.

11. A list of speakers for the round tables, maintained in accordance with the level of representation and on a first come, first served basis, will be open for inscription with a contact point in the Secretariat (to be announced in the Journal) from 1 - 30 August 2011. Delegations are asked to kindly indicate the level of representation when inscribing on the speakers list.

12. As noted in paragraph 4 above, the deadline for NGO pre-registration for participation in the high-level meeting was 15 July and the NGOs that have registered are currently being reviewed. This list will be circulated shortly to Member States on a non-objection basis. Thereafter, the President will select NGO representatives to participate in the round tables.

Further information

13. Further general information on the organizational arrangements of the High-level Meeting will be provided by the Secretariat in its information note to delegations.

Annex: High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Thursday, 22 September 2011	
9:00 – 11:00	Opening plenary
11:00 – 13:00	Round table on "Victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: recognition, justice and development"
15:00 – 18:00	Round table on "Victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: recognition, justice and development"
18:00 – 19:00	Closing plenary