



**His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
President of the General Assembly**

**Remarks at the Closing Ceremony
of the United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development**

Rio de Janeiro, 22 June 2012

Your Excellency Ms. Dilma Rousseff, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and President of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Mr. Sha Zukang, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening.

We have come a long way. Our path began much earlier, in Stockholm, 1972, and beyond, but right now, we are at historic culmination of 20 years of follow-up of Rio-92, the original Earth Summit.

I am proud to say that through out this journey the United Nations General Assembly has played a central role in both reflecting and fostering the rise of global public awareness of the environment of our Blue Planet, our only home in the universe.

Fortunately, we have become increasingly cognizant of the close inter-linkages between maintaining environmental balance, fostering development and sharing its fruits.

The Outcome Document we have just adopted by consensus reflects this notion and provides critical guidance on the way forward.

I commend Your Excellencies for your wisdom, flexibility and sense of duty in rallying around this expression of collective will.

I am aware of some disappointments, but the equal distribution of disappointments is very often the hallmark of successful multilateral negotiations. Particularly those involving 193 countries!

The time is now of implementation – in the UN and throughout the world.

As I have said before, this fall, we will dedicate our best efforts in the General Assembly to make the right decisions that will enable the implementation of this Outcome Document.

It is of the responsibility of every Member State to take effective steps of implementation and, if possible, to go beyond what is expected from them.

I am confident we will all be able to act well and to act fast. This is what the peoples of the world demand from us.

Our efforts will be energized by the inspiration coming from Rio, by the spirit of Rio.

No doubt, the warm hospitality and the hard work of the Brazilian people, have much contributed to the emergence of feelings of solidarity and flexibility and of mutual understanding among delegations.

Once again, I express to Your Excellency, Senhora Presidenta, and to all Brazilians the deep gratitude of the other 192 Member States of the United Nations.

You have given an impressive show of competence in receiving us.

I am looking forward to coming to Rio for the World Cup and the Olympic Games!

I also take the opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to our colleagues from the Host Country and the United Nations Secretariat, including the interpreters, who provided us with their dedicated service, day and night, during the long debates and negotiations.

I hope you all may be able to enjoy a couple of days off in Rio before a safe return home.

Thank you all very much! Muito obrigado, Rio! Muito obrigado, Brasil!