

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Statement of Ms. Woinshet Tadesse Woldegiorgis, Chair, Committee on Conferences
at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly
on 12 October 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference room 3 (NLB)**

Agenda item: Pattern of conferences

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues,

It is my privilege to address the Fifth Committee to introduce the report of the Committee on Conferences covering its work in 2011 and adopted by silence procedure following its recently concluded substantive session from 6 to 12 September 2011. The report as contained in document A/66/32, together with a draft resolution in Annex I and the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 2012-2013 in Annex II, are being transmitted through the Fifth Committee and recommended for adoption by the General Assembly.

The Committee on Conferences considered the report of the Secretary-General on pattern of conferences (A/66/118) which was issued six weeks before the beginning of its substantive session in accordance with the mandated timeframe and was within the 8,500 word-limit for reports originating in the Secretariat. Statistical data was presented as supplementary information. For the first time, the Committee conducted its substantive session in a “paper-smart” fashion following a proposal made by the Secretariat at the organizational session of the Committee in April this year, drawing on the experiences and best practices of paper-smart meetings of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in New York, and similar practices at other duty stations. All official pre-session, in-session, information and reference documents were posted on a dedicated website. The Secretariat conducted a live-demo at a meeting of the Committee in June and during the briefing one week prior to the session. The Secretariat also provided laptops on loan and technical support in the meeting room, and print-on-demand services as requested.

Mr. Chair,

The report of the Committee reflects the breadth and depth of discussions on all items in its annotated agenda (A/AC.172/2011/1) and is within the word guideline for reports not originating in the Secretariat. As you know, the Committee’s substantive session is an opportunity for Member States to engage actively with the leadership and staff of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on all matters related to conference management, and to seek additional information and clarification as necessary in order to provide direction, guidance and support to the Secretariat in carrying out the mandates entrusted to it by the General Assembly. Allow me to highlight some of these issues.

In Chapter I: Organizational matters, you will note from the Committee’s membership in 2011 that one member from the Latin American and Caribbean States is to be appointed.

Chapter II deals with the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2012-13. Paragraph 5

