



21 December 2006

Excellency,

As outlined in my previous letters to you of 5 October and 1 December 2006, I have the honour to inform you that the General Assembly will hold its second informal thematic debate, on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, on 6 and 7 March 2007.

At 2005 World Summit, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as an integral aspect of reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs. I am convinced that without further action on these important issues it will not be possible to achieve our shared development goals. The informal thematic debate will focus on two key topics, namely, the role of micro finance in the empowerment of women, and, women's participation in decision making at all levels.

I am hopeful that the meeting will provide Member States, in partnership with the UN system, regional organisations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, with an opportunity to have a frank and open exchange of views on the challenges we face to empower women and make gender equality a reality.

In light of the importance of this debate, I trust Member States will fully and actively participate in this event, including at Ministerial level. In due course, I will communicate further details to you on the format and program of this event.

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


Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

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