



31 January 2007

Excellency,

In my letter of 21 December 2006, I had the honour of inviting you to an informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on 6 and 7 March 2007, on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The debate is a good opportunity to; share views on the actions, best practices and lessons learned in overcoming the challenges to achieve true gender equality; discuss how to bridge the gaps between policy and practice; and, renew political commitments towards full implementation of existing agreements.

The thematic debate will consist of two principal segments, a High Level debate in the General Assembly Hall followed by two interactive panel discussions to be held in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. The High Level debate will be held on 6 March 2007, at 10:00am. The interactive panel discussions will be held on 6 and 7 March 2007, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. The first interactive panel addressing the importance of the role of women in decision making at all levels will begin at 3:00pm, on 6 March 2007. The second panel discussing the economic empowerment of women, including through micro-finance, will be held in the morning of 7 March 2007. A number of distinguished panelists will lead the debate. Background notes on the two issues to be discussed in the panel debates are attached.

In response to my previous request, I would be grateful if you could provide details of those participating from your capital, including at Ministerial level. Their participation at this event would be greatly appreciated and further demonstrate to a global audience your countries commitment to enhancing the quality of life and opportunities available to women. If you have any further enquiries we will be happy to assist you.

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