



12 June 2007

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith an informal summary of the proceedings of the informal thematic debate on “Civilizations and the Challenge for Peace: Obstacles and Opportunities” that took place on 10-11 May 2007.

As you may recall, the main objective of the debate was to unravel the reasons behind the increasing level of mistrust among people of different religions and cultures and to discuss the relationships between cultural and religious differences and conflicts.

The discussions focused on respect for cultural diversity as a prerequisite for dialogue, religion in contemporary society, the responsibility of the media and civilizations and the challenge for global peace and security.

I was encouraged by the open and frank exchange of views which took place during the informal thematic debate, and would like to sincerely thank all Member States and invited guests for their support and active participation.

A number of recommendations emerged from the four interactive panel discussions and should be carefully considered for action, as appropriate. For your ease of reference, a web-cast of the debate and the panellists’ contributions can be found in the official website of the President of the General Assembly<sup>1</sup>.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Haya Al Khalifa", written over a horizontal line.

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

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

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/follow-up/thematic-civilizations/programme.shtml>