



1 March 2007

Excellency,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Member States for their interest in participating at a high level in the informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on the Promotion of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on 6 and 7 March 2007.

There are now more than 70 speakers inscribed in the speakers' list for the debate in the morning of 6 March, in the General Assembly. Given the large number of speakers, I have decided to extend the debate to the afternoon session in order to give Member States the opportunity to make statements.

However, I should appeal to speakers to make their statements as brief as possible, preferably 3 minutes each, and not to exceed 5 minutes, so that all delegations inscribed in the speakers' list have the opportunity to be heard. Given the time restrictions, I should also encourage delegations that may not have the opportunity to speak during the debate to circulate their statements and actively participate in the panel discussions.

The panel discussions will take place in the Economic and Social Council Chamber. A final programme is attached at Annex 1. There will be open seating in the Economic and Social Council Chamber and delegates are invited to obtain their respective country name plates for the seating of their choice (one plus one). I have also invited a number of ECOSOC accredited non-governmental organizations, which are listed at Annex 2, to actively participate in the informal thematic debate.

To enable other representatives, media and interested personnel to follow the panel discussions, seats will be available in the balcony of the ECOSOC Chamber. Conference Room 4 has also been designated as an overflow room for the afternoon of 6 March and the morning of 7 March.

I look forward to welcoming you all to the thematic debate.
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