



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 October 2006

Excellency,

During the General Debate, world leaders gathered and articulated a clear political vision, renewing their commitment to multilateralism as the most appropriate way to address the many global challenges of our time. It falls upon us in the General Assembly to seek a common understanding so that we can translate this vision into action. In this letter, I would like to outline the work ahead for the General Assembly in the coming months.

First of all, I am particularly encouraged by our leaders' renewed commitment to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals.

Since the beginning of this Session and in meeting with many visiting leaders, I have emphasized the importance of promoting development as a means to eradicate extreme poverty and achieve concrete progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. In order to move forward in this area, I intend to organize an informal thematic debate during the main part of the Sixty-first Session.

This event will provide a forum to examine practical measures and strategies which can enable us to achieve tangible results. It will bring together interested donor and recipient countries along with all other stakeholders of the United Nations system as well as civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to explore ways of ensuring consistency and coordination of national and international development strategies. I intend to work closely with the President of the Economic and Social Council, Ambassador Hachani of Tunisia, throughout the preparatory process.

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

I hope that the preparations for this event as well as the discussions themselves will be a concrete step in strengthening the global partnership for development. I will revert to you with more information on this matter in the coming days.

Furthermore, it is my intention to hold other multi-stakeholder informal and interactive thematic debates, particularly on issues relating to gender and dialogue among civilizations later in the Session. I will consult with you and share the detailed proposals on those thematic debates in due course.

I believe that events like these will significantly contribute to our overall efforts to revitalize the General Assembly. As you are well aware, during the General Debate, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the role and authority of the General Assembly. We have in the past adopted numerous resolutions on the revitalization of the General Assembly including 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286. We anticipate the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of those resolutions prior to the plenary debate on this issue scheduled for 4 December 2006.

In the Sixtieth Session, the General Assembly agreed on various measures to strengthen this Organization. We have to monitor the implementation of those measures during the Sixty-first Session. In particular, we should ensure that the newly established institutions, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, live up to their potential.

We also need to establish credible processes to ensure that reform is advancing on the right track and that all outstanding commitments are moving forward. In performing our work we should keep in mind that reform is not a one-time event but a process that aims at strengthening the United Nations to better deliver its programmes to the peoples of the world.

On the **Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council**, it is important to resume our work and bridge the differences in order to realize a strengthened ECOSOC as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of

economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals.

Negotiations on the draft resolution should resume as soon as possible. I have asked the two Co-Chairs, Ambassador Verbeke of Belgium and Ambassador Diarra of Mali, to continue leading this process. I will also be personally involved in this matter and trust that we will reach an agreement on the outstanding issues by the end of October.

On **Secretariat and Management Reform**, it is imperative that all measures agreed during the Sixtieth Session be implemented during the current Session. The Fifth Committee will continue its consideration of the outstanding issues from the Summit Outcome document namely human resources management reform, procurement reform, governance and oversight.

On **Mandate Review**, I thank the two Co-Chairs, Ambassador Akram of Pakistan and Ambassador Cooney of Ireland, for their proposal to move this process forward as outlined in their letter to the President of the Sixtieth Session of 30 August 2006. I have asked them to continue their consultations with Member States in order to make further progress on this issue.

On **System-wide Coherence**, after the presentation by the Secretary-General of the report of the High-level Panel, I will revert to you with specific proposals on how to move forward on this issue.

On the **Environment**, in light of the interconnection between some of the aspects of the report of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence and the environmental issues under consideration, I have asked the two Co-Chairs, Ambassador Berruga of Mexico and Ambassador Maurer of Switzerland, to resume their consultations on environmental governance following the issuance of this report.

On **Security Council Reform**, many delegations have reiterated their interest to address this matter with a fresh and open mind. World leaders in the Summit Outcome document agreed that reform of the Security Council is an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations. I encourage you to continue having frank and constructive exchanges with a view to achieving a meaningful outcome on this issue.

On **Counter-terrorism**, after the launch of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 19 September 2006, it is important that all stakeholders move forward with its implementation without delay. On a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, I will follow closely the progress on the negotiations of this convention. I expect that the Sixth Committee will continue to work intensely with a view to achieving substantial progress on this issue.

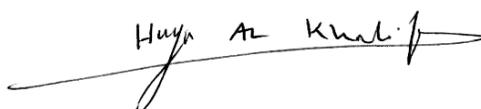
As we strive to implement the Summit Outcome document, I also call on Member States to complete the process for the formal adoption, in the main part of the Session, of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

Moreover, I would like to draw your attention to the regular programme of work of the General Assembly plenary, as circulated in the Note by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2006 (A/INF/61/4*). Among the important issues on our agenda, I wish in particular to highlight the upcoming plenary meetings on the prevention of armed conflict and the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

I also invite you to explore ways and means to reinvigorate our discussions on matters pertaining to disarmament and non-proliferation during this Session.

I look forward to working with all of you to advance our common agenda in an open and transparent manner. We have to keep in mind that the time before us is limited. We thus need to manage our workload accordingly while ensuring the full participation of all Member States in the decision-making process. I count on your continued support in advancing our common objectives towards realizing a safer and more prosperous world for us all.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Haya Rashed Al Khalifa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa