



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 October 2006

Excellency,

In my letter of 5 October 2006, I informed you of my intention to hold a series of thematic debates throughout the 61<sup>st</sup> session in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions on its revitalization. These thematic debates will address the topics of development, gender and dialogue among civilizations. I was encouraged by the positive responses I received during my consultations with individual and groups of Member States.

Today I have the honour to inform you that the General Assembly will hold its first informal thematic debate on 27 November 2006 entitled “Partnerships towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Taking Stock, Moving Forward”.

As you are aware, I have emphasized the importance of developing concrete actions to eradicate extreme poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. As we approach the midpoint of the target date, it is essential to take stock of the progress made so far in order to generate further impetus towards achieving our objectives.

The informal thematic debate will provide an opportunity to identify practical measures to help Member States develop and implement their National Development Strategies. Member States and all relevant stakeholders, including the UN system, civil society and the

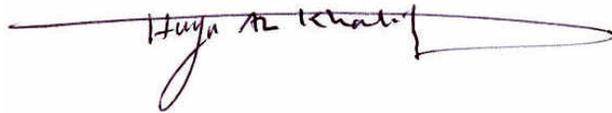
All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

private sector will contribute to this event. Our goal should be to identify the best practices and examples of successful initiatives, while at the same time underlining obstacles to progress. In addition, the thematic debate will provide a forum to reinvigorate partnerships between all stakeholders. We will also be privileged to hear from Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the efforts of the United Nations in this regard.

I am grateful for the technical support received thus far from the United Nations Development Program and the UN Secretariat. I will continue to work closely with these parties and consult the President of the Economic and Social Council to ensure the success of this event.

In light of the importance to all Member States of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, I trust Member States will ensure full and active participation at this event, including, as appropriate, through the participation of Ministers, in particular those responsible for international development, planning and international cooperation. I will communicate to you in due course further details on the format and program of this event.

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 and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa