



26 February 2007

Excellency,

At the informal meeting of the Plenary on 16 February 2007, a number of Member States requested that the process of considering the Secretary-General's proposals to realign the Department of Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/61/749, to be issued tomorrow) should be conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, under the guidance of the President of the General Assembly. Furthermore, the Secretary-General asked me to guide this process, with a view to arriving at two framework resolutions addressing the respective proposals.

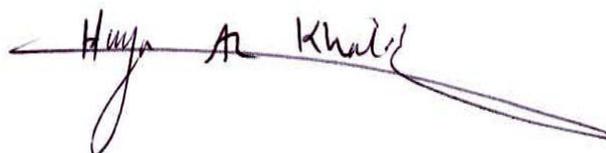
I have consulted extensively with negotiating groups in the General Assembly, as well as with other Member States, and have decided to appoint two facilitators for each of the issues. Each two facilitators will conduct, on my behalf, open, transparent and inclusive consultations on the topic assigned to them. I am pleased to inform you that Ambassador Løvald, Permanent Representative of Norway, and Ambassador Kariyawasam, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka, will facilitate the consultations on the realignment of Department of Disarmament Affairs; and, Ambassador Salgueiro, Permanent Representative of Portugal, and Ambassador Rosseli, Permanent Representative of Uruguay, on the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. I strongly encourage Member States to present the facilitators with their ideas and views to ensure full ownership of this process by the entire membership.

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

I invite all Member States to extend their full cooperation and support to the facilitators throughout the consultation process. The Secretariat has also indicated its willingness to provide further technical information or clarification on the proposals to Member States, as and when requested. While taking into consideration the legitimate concerns of Member States, I wish to emphasize the need for all of us to work together in a constructive and flexible manner bearing in mind the need to assist the Secretary-General in discharging his important duties and to help him succeed in his endeavours.

I will take stock of the progress of the consultation process and indicate the way forward after I return to New York from my official visits on 5 March 2007.

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