Excellency,

I have the honour to bring to your attention the program for the informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on 10 and 11 May 2007, on *Civilizations and the Challenge for Peace; obstacles and opportunities*.

The program includes the list of confirmed panelists for the four interactive panel debates. Please be advised that short bios of the panelists can be accessed on the President’s website:


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
Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly

Civilizations and the Challenge for Peace: Obstacles and Opportunities

10 and 11 May 2007
Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations

Thursday 10 May

Panel 1 - Respect for Cultural Diversity is a prerequisite for Dialogue
10.00 am - 1.00 pm

- Dr. Ghassan Salame
  Professor of International Relations at Sciences Po University, Former
  Minister of Culture of Lebanon

- Rev. Canon Dr. Trond Bakkevig
  Pastor of the Lutheran Church of Norway

- Ms. Fatemeh Keshavarz-Karamustafa
  Professor of Persian and Comparative Literature
  Chair, Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages & Literatures
  University of Washington

- Ms. Regine Boucard - Moderator
  West African Museum Program, former President of the World Bank Art
  Society

Panel 2 – Religion in Contemporary Society
3.00 pm – 6.00 pm

- Mr. Mohamed Arkoun
  Emeritus Professor of the History of Islamic Thought at the Sorbonne

- Mr. Manish Kasliwal
  National Chairman, Young Jains of India

- Ms. Mary Ann Glendon
  Learned Hand Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

- Dr. Hune Margulies
  Director, The Martin Buber Institute for Dialogical Ecology

- Mr. Robert Thurman – Moderator
  Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Columbia University
Friday 11 May 2007

Panel 3 – The Responsibility of the Media
10.00 am – 1.00 pm

- Ms. Robin Mansell
  Professor of new Media, Head of the Department of New Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science

- Dr. Mohamed Al Rumaihi
  Professor of Political Sociology, Kuwait University

- Mr. Riz Khan
  News Reporter and Interviewer, Al Jazeera English

- Ms. Mona Siddiqui
  Professor of Islamic Studies and Public Understanding, University of Glasgow

- Ms. Sheila Coronel - Moderator
  Professor of Professional Practice and Director of Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism, Columbia University

Panel 4 – Civilizations and the Challenge for Global Peace and Security
3.00 pm – 6.00 pm

- Mr. Souleymane Bachir Diagne
  Northwestern University

- Mr. Amre Moussa
  Secretary-General, League of Arab States

- Ms. Karen Armstrong
  Author on religion, television broadcaster

- Mr. Shashi Tharoor - Moderator
  Author and Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information
SIDE EVENT:

Roundtable Discussion on the Arts - *How can the UN better use the arts in further developing strategies to bridge the gaps between cultures?*

**Date:** Friday 11 May 2007  
**Time:** 1.15 pm - 3.00 pm  
**Venue:** Conference Room 6

**Panelists:**
- Mr. Richard Gluckman  
  Gluckman Mayner Architects
- Mrs. Karen Brooks Hopkins  
  President, Brooklyn Academy of Music
- Dr. Lisa Koenigsberg  
  Founder and President, Initiatives in Arts and Culture
- Dr. Paul LeClerc  
  President and Chief Executive Officer, New York Public Library
- Mrs. Gail Dexter Lord  
  President, Lord Cultural Resources

**Moderator:**
- Mr. Michael Kimmelman  
  Chief Art Critic, The New York Times