



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 June 2007

Excellency,

I wrote to you on 24 May regarding the fourth thematic debate of the 61st session on the theme “Climate Change as a global challenge” at the request of the ASEAN New York Committee and the European Union. I have the honor to inform you that the informal thematic debate will take place on the Tuesday 31 July and Wednesday 1 August 2007.

The United Nations has a central role to play on climate change issues. In this regard, the debate can provide a forum to discuss the growing scientific consensus on climate change, which can be translated into broad political consensus for action on this important issue. The debate represents an opportunity to raise awareness and build momentum on climate change, in particular, in preparation for the Secretary-General’s High-level event in September. In order to facilitate an informed discussion, upon my request, the Secretary-General has kindly agreed to prepare a factual background paper as an input to the thematic debate. I will make this document available to you as soon as possible.

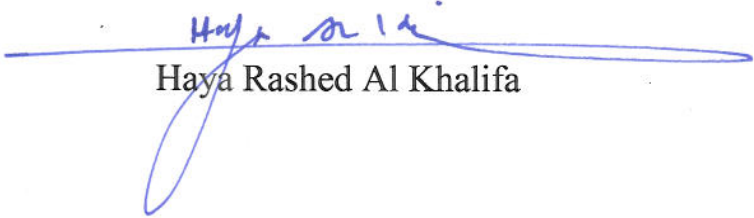
The format of the debate will consist of a brief opening ceremony immediately followed by two separate interactive Panel discussions. The Panels will bring together experts and spokespersons on a variety of climate change issues; including, the impact of climate change, mitigation and adaptation strategies, new technologies and finance. The second day will be set aside for a general discussion open to all. Member States are invited to make statements about their national strategies and international commitments to address climate change. The Secretary-General’s Climate Change Envoys will participate at the opening of the discussion.

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

There will be no formal list of speakers and standard General Assembly protocol will apply. The floor will be given to Member States on a first-come first-serve basis at the meeting, in accordance with the usual General Assembly practice. Given the time limitations and as a courtesy to all Member States that would like to make statements, I would strongly encourage these not to exceed five minutes to allow as many as possible to participate in the discussion.

I will revert shortly to you with a detailed program of the event.

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



Haya Rashed Al Khalifa