

21 September 2006

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,  
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,  
commemorating the International Day of Peace**

The International Day of Peace is observed on 21 September of every Year. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to celebrate peace and promote its ideals both within and among all nations and peoples. In 2001, the General Assembly called for the International Day of Peace to be a global ceasefire.

This year, it falls two days after the opening of the General Debate where World Leaders outline the state of our world, its conflicts, and its challenges. It is an annual occasion to reflect on what has been achieved, and what can be achieved, in the name of peace. It is not a day solely for peace movements and organizations throughout the world; it extends to every citizen committed to working towards a world that is not weighed down by the oppression of wars, inequality and injustice.

Just as our Organization realizes that there is no true peace without justice, it is also aware that it is injustice that provides the impetus for violence. May this day be a day to contemplate the destiny of our world and build bridges towards the future.

Let us embrace the fundamental values enshrined in the Charter to save present and future generations from yet more grief, death and bloodshed.

Let us strive to ensure that scientific progress and technological development will not compromise humanitarian objectives. If we truly wish to ensure a bright future for all the people, it is incumbent upon us to bring these two important elements in harmony.

Let peace be a force for those who believe in a better and more prosperous world...a force that does not wound but one that heals...a force that makes life on Earth truly worthwhile.

We hope that the International Day of Peace, year after year, is an affirmation of our commitment to peace and our desire to educate all peoples its values. Peace is the most precious gift of all, but it is also the most difficult gift to keep because it requires discernment and the collective effort of all.

Let us work together for the good that it bestows on all mankind.