

11 October 2006

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,
at the Presentation of the United Nations Study on Violence against
Children**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be with you today at the presentation of the United Nations study on Violence against Children. I would like to thank Mr. Paulo Pinherio, for inviting me to participate in this event and for his leadership throughout the preparation process. The process has been inclusive, bringing together all regions and stakeholders, from government representatives, UN and regional bodies, parliamentarians, to civil society and, most importantly, children themselves.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Violence affects children in all regions, irrespective of race, class, religion or culture. Some children remain especially vulnerable because of their age, sex, or particular characteristics such as disability or social status. Reports of this violence have long been recorded, but only now are we becoming more and more aware of the critical nature of this global problem.

It is indeed disturbing to realize the extent of violence against children in homes, schools, and in other educational settings and in places where children work.

Hence, there is an urgent need for an international partnership that seeks to mainstream our common efforts to identify and address the root causes of this problem. There is also a need to put in place mechanisms to prevent violence against children.

The study presents Member States with the opportunity to discuss this widespread problem that has profound implications not only for children and future adults but also for families, societies, and global development.

Therefore, I encourage all stakeholders to examine this report and consider its recommendations with a view to better tackle this problem. It is our responsibility to create a safe and peaceful environment where the children of the world can grow and prosper.

Thank You.