

13 October 2006

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,
on the Occasion of the Appointment of the Secretary-General of the
United Nations**

Secretary-General,
Secretary-General designate,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The General Assembly has just adopted the resolution on the appointment of His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon as Secretary-General of the United Nations. This is a historic day for the Organization as it continues to evolve and live up to the values and principles of the Charter.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to extend my sincerest congratulations to Minister Ban Ki-Moon on his appointment as the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I am deeply honored to welcome him to the United Nations; an Organization which is not unfamiliar to him and to which he has devoted a considerable part of his outstanding diplomatic career.

He is one of the most prominent figures of the Republic of Korea, a peaceful nation that has made a remarkable transformation to become a stable democracy and a vibrant economy during the past three decades.

His appointment comes at a time when the Organization is deeply engaged in a wide-ranging reform process outlined by world leaders in September last year.

We are grateful to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who has played a major role in shaping a clear and comprehensive vision to address the many global challenges confronting us.

I am confident that the Organization will build upon its past achievements and move ahead to become an even more effective body under the leadership of Secretary-General designate Ban Ki-Moon.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have still before us many challenges from extreme poverty and hunger to armed conflicts, disease, and international terrorism. And we have yet to find the most appropriate ways to make globalization work for all.

The credibility of this Organization will be tested by our ability to continue to work in unity and meet the expectations of the millions of people of the world.

Today's decision gives us hope that we are ready to take collective responsibility and act with determination on matters of common concern.

I appeal to all of you to extend to Secretary-General designate Ban Ki-Moon your utmost support to ensure a smooth transition as he prepares to assume his term in office. He can be assured of my full cooperation to facilitate his work.

May I take this opportunity to wish him all success in his upcoming endeavor.
Thank You.