

25 October 2006

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,
at the United Nations Day Concert**

Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellency Minister of State of Greece,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to be here at this concert commemorating United Nations Day.

Sixty-one years ago, on 24 October 1945, the United Nations Charter came into force. World leaders rose to the challenges of their time, demonstrating by their actions that peace, security and prosperity are indivisible. And, for their benefits to be sustained, they need to be shared by all.

Today is a day of celebration. It is also a day of pause and reflection.

Today, we call on the United Nations to continue its mission to promote peace and security, eradicate poverty and remain a beacon of hope for millions around the world.

Today, let us also honor the tireless dedication and sacrifice of all those who have served to further the ideals of the United Nations family.

Let this be a day to reflect upon the true purpose and founding values of the United Nations.

Let this also be a day to celebrate the power of music in transcending all economic, social, and religious barriers; building bridges of love, peace and understanding among peoples of the world.

It is fitting that we celebrate in the company of the National Symphonic Orchestra of Greece and hear the words and music of renowned poets and composers. Over the millennia, Greek philosophy, literature and poetry have inspired the ideals of democracy, tolerance, and freedom of expression. I would like to pay particular tribute to the Government of Greece and the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation for graciously sponsoring this event.

As we enjoy the performance tonight, let us, once again be reminded of the purpose, dreams and ideals that inspired the founders of the United Nations.

Thank you.