

27 November 2006

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,  
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Closing Session of the Informal Thematic Debate on  
Partnerships towards Achieving the MDGs: Taking Stock, Moving  
Forward**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have come to the end of a very fruitful discussion on "Partnership for achieving the MDGs: taking stock, moving forward".

We have been reminded that if we remain committed that we can overcome the challenges we face and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, by 2015.

We were also reminded by the Secretary General that achieving the MDGs by 2015 is one of the greatest gifts that we could give to humanity. Our challenge is to keep up the momentum.

As I stated this morning, I remain convinced that the development goals of member states will only be achieved if the private sector, civil society and governments are fully engaged. The UN must therefore continue to play a critical role in fostering global and local partnerships.

That is why it was vital for the General Assembly to hold an informal debate on development, including the private sector and civil society, to ensure a broad discussion.

We have heard that it is time for action on the ground, time for new partnerships involving the private sector and civil society, and time to deliver on commitments and promises.

We have also heard about the need to move beyond the traditional donor and recipient relationship if we are to achieve our shared goals. But also, that delivering our development goals will help to make the world a safer, more stable and prosperous place for all. To achieve this we will need an integrated global partnership for development.

A true global compact.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to thank all Member States for their support and active participation in this event today. Particularly, to those Ministers and senior officials who have taken time from their busy schedules to be with us.

I would like once again to commend the generous commitment of the Islamic Development Bank to fighting poverty with its proposed 10 billion US\$ Poverty Alleviation Fund.

I would also like to thank Mexico and Qatar for playing an important role, driving forward the follow up to Monterrey, to ensure the full implementation of the MDGs.

And, today I can announce that Qatar has offered to host the follow-up to this thematic debate on development during the first half of 2007.

I am also encouraged by the commitment from civil society and the private sector representatives from Egypt and South Africa to hold a follow-up meeting shortly.

I am also grateful that Dean Kamen could join us today, to display his low cost water purification system, in the hallway outside the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

And finally, I would like to offer my personal thanks to all Panelists, who have come to the United Nations today to enrich us with their practical experience and perspectives on development.

And last but not least let me warmly thank the Undersecretary General, Shashi Tharoor for his excellent job in moderating this afternoon session.

I hope that our discussions today can cement our ongoing partnerships and pave the way for new ones, in the spirit of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

I shall shortly circulate a summary of today's discussions to all Members States and other participants.

Thank you.