

11 December 2006

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,
on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the
Membership of the Security Council and other Matters related to the
Security Council and the Report of the Security Council**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have before us today agenda item 111 on the 'Question of the equitable representation on and the increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters', and the 'Report of the Security Council', under agenda item 9.

As you are aware, the question of equitable representation on, and increase in the membership of the Security Council was first introduced to our agenda in 1979, during the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Discussions on this matter led the Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, to adopt resolution 48/26 of 3 December 1993, by which it decided to establish the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council. Beginning in January 1994, the Working Group has attempted to reach an agreement on the various aspects of this important issue.

As you will recall, a number of draft resolutions on the issue of Security Council reform were tabled by several groups of States, during the fifty-ninth and the sixtieth sessions. And, as a result, the General Assembly has discussed this issue at a number of informal and formal meetings. This is in addition to the regular general debate on this agenda item, and further discussion during the item on 'Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit'.

So far our ongoing efforts have not lead to an agreement on Security Council reform. However, we should not loose hope in our ability to make progress on this important matter. We should also acknowledge the clear mandate to move forward on this issue in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. Our leaders recommitted themselves to, ". support early reform of the Security Council - an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations - in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions".

After many years of inconclusive debate on this important matter, I believe the time has come for us to make a realistic assessment of the whole issue. In doing so we should be prepared to look at this matter with a fresh and open mind so that we can make substantial progress. I therefore look

forward to hearing your concrete proposals and views on how to move ahead on this important reform agenda item.

As the President of the 61st session of the General Assembly, I wish to assure you of my readiness to work with all of you to establish the most appropriate process to enable us to fulfill the challenging task of reforming the Security Council as mandated by our leaders.

Thank you.