

14 December 2006

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,  
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Oath of Office Ceremony for Secretary-General Designate Mr.  
Ban Ki-Moon**

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

On behalf of the General Assembly, I am deeply honored to welcome the Secretary-General-Designate, His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon to take the Oath of Office.

I wish, once again, to extend my congratulations to Mr Ban Ki-Moon, on his appointment as the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations.

He will follow a long line of world class leaders stretching back over 60 years. Each one has embodied the values and principles of the Charter through their own unique style and approach.

I am confident that Secretary-General Designate Ban Ki-Moon will lead the Organisation wisely, with determination and integrity. This is not only a reflection of his core Asian values, but also his faith in the United Nations family, and personal commitment to ensure it lives up to its universal values and principles.

Ban Ki-Moon has already signaled his commitment to lead the Organization in a focused and action oriented manner: working transparently, flexibly and honestly with Member States, as he puts it, 'to cut through the fog of mistrust', so that working in harmony the United Nations can deliver more, for those who need it most.

Indeed, the credibility of this Organization will be tested by our ability to continue to work in unity with purpose, to meet the expectations of millions of people around the world. The promises the United Nations has made should be kept.

As President of the General Assembly, I am ready to work in close co-operation with Secretary General Designate, Ban Ki-Moon on the three challenges he has made priorities when he takes office on 1st January 2007.

- First, to continue to reform the Secretariat, by bolstering the integrity, professionalism and morale of staff;

- Second, to work to heal divisions and rebuild trust among member states, the Secretariat, and the global public whom we serve; and,
- Third, to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of the United Nations to implement its mandates, and increase the coordination and harmonization of the work of its various parts.

As he prepares to assume his responsibilities and duties, I would appeal to all of you once again, to extend to him your utmost support and cooperation.

Next year, we could begin a new era of closer harmony at the United Nations. We have many important matters of common concern that require our close attention. We have to work more closely together, in the spirit of cooperation, mutual trust and collective responsibility.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

If we consider that the post of Secretary-General is one of the most difficult jobs in the world. I am confident that leading by example, Ban Ki-Moon has what it takes to make a great contribution to the Organisation and the global public that it lives to serve. May I take this opportunity to wish him the greatest success in this, our common endeavour.

Thank you very much.