

16 April 2007

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,
at the Special High Level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council
with the Bretton Woods Institutions**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to take part in this important meeting, the sixth in its kind, since the landmark International Conference on Financing for Development took place in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002.

The unique format and comprehensive nature of the "Monterrey Consensus" has proved to be an important model for multilateralism. It brought together and gave a voice to all parties with a stake in development. This made it possible to reach the broadest possible consensus and to move the global development agenda forward, by;

Agreeing additional finance for development and setting clear targets for donors to deliver;
Establishing a framework for global partnerships and good governance; and,
Strengthening the voice of the developing world.

The importance of making progress on these issues cannot be underestimated. Poverty and lagging development are surely the most pressing issues of our times.

Poverty has a face in the developing world. So as we reach the halfway point to 2015, we must strive to breathe more life into the MDGs.

I appeal to all of you here to move beyond the mistrust that sometimes frustrates progress. We must not lose sight of the fact that we share the same objective - to rid the world of extreme poverty and improve the lives of millions of poor around the world.

I am convinced that your presence here today is a measure of your government's conviction to live up to the commitments made at the Millennium Summit in 2000, in Monterrey and at the 2005 World Summit.

If we can achieve these shared development goals, not only will we put an end to poverty, but we can also help to make the world a safer, more stable and prosperous place for all.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

During this session the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/191 to welcome the offer of the Government of Qatar to host the 'Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus' in the second half of 2008.

Today, I can announce that on my behalf, H.E. Ambassador Abdelaziz the Permanent Representative of Egypt, and H.E. Ambassador Løvold, the Permanent Representative of Norway will lead the consultation process on this important matter.

They will conduct an open and inclusive process on all issues relating to the review conference, including with all major institutional stakeholders.

Furthermore, in my capacity as President of the General Assembly and to accelerate progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, I have taken the initiative, to hold a follow-up to the informal thematic debate on development that was held in November 2006.

The Government of Qatar has generously accepted to host this event, entitled "Implementation of the MDGs and Financing for Development", in Doha, on the 17th and 18th of June 2007.

I hope this event, along with the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development that will take place during the fourth quarter of this year, will contribute to the preparatory process in the run up to Doha in 2008.

Finally, I wish you all the greatest success in your deliberations today, particularly on your work to establish innovative financing for development.

I believe that by working together we can implement the MDGs by 2015, and that this would be the single greatest gift to humanity that the international community has in its power to deliver.

Thank you very much.