

12 September 2007

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,  
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,  
on Accepting the Public-Private Foundation MDG Award**

Excellencies,  
Dear friends,

I am humbled to be presented with this award by Nile Rodgers on behalf the Public-Private Alliance Foundation. However, I feel duty bound to accept it on behalf of all the Member States of the United Nation's General Assembly.

Without the support of Member States and their commitment to poverty eradication we cannot make progress. With their support during this session I convened thematic debates on 'Partnership towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals', and 'Financing Development to achieve the MDGs'.

These thematic debates have increased the profile and impact of the General Assembly, and opened up the institution to fresh thinking and outside perspectives.

The debates brought Member States together with representatives from the private sector, civil society, NGOs and faith groups. In doing so our message on the MDGs has reached a wider audience.

Our common purpose must be – to build a global alliance – a global partnership – a truly lasting political consensus to achieve the MDGs on time. This is truly the greatest gift that we could give to humanity.

This is a pivotal year. We reached the mid-point to achieve the MDGs in 2015. There is much work to be done and many lives hang in the balance. We truly face a 'development emergency' if we are going to achieve the MDGs. The situation is serious – but there is hope.

If we act now, and act together we can reverse this alarming trend. But unless we act decisively, by 2015 millions of people will still be struggling on less than one dollar a day, and millions of children will still go hungry.

We need to forge a global coalition that includes the private sector, NGOs and civil society - including organizations such as the Public Private Alliance and the Millennium Project - working with national and local governments.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Permanent Representatives of Madagascar and the Dominican Republic. Their countries have taken the lead by piloting innovative partnerships with the private sector to accelerate progress toward the MDGs.

Many other countries are waiting to join this scheme. So we should not lose hope, for I believe that great hope arises from great hardships.

Each of us here today has a responsibility. We are all accountable. Only the passage of history will judge whether we have been successful.

Thank you all very much.