



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 July 2007

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 9 June, I have the honour to update you on the preparations for the thematic debate on “Climate change as a global challenge”, that will take place on the Tuesday 31 July and Wednesday 1 August 2007.

For your information, please find attached the programme setting out the status of participation in the two Panels as well as the names of other guests who have been invited to contribute to the interactive discussions. Furthermore, please also find attached a factual background paper provided by the Secretary-General at my request to serve as an input to the thematic debate. These and other papers are available on the website of the President of the General Assembly - <http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/>

I am pleased to confirm that the thematic debate will consist of a brief opening ceremony followed immediately by two separate interactive Panel discussions in the morning and afternoon of the first day. I encourage delegations to use this opportunity to pose questions and respond in an interactive manner to the comments and presentations made by panellists and other experts. Prepared statements focusing on national strategies and international commitments on climate change should be made on the second day, which has been set aside for a general discussion open to all Member States.

I would also like to remind Member States that there will be no formal list of speakers and standard General Assembly protocol will apply. The floor will be given to Member States on a first-come first-serve basis at the meeting, in accordance with the usual General Assembly practice. I strongly encourage concise statements that do not to exceed five minutes to allow as many delegations as possible to participate in the general discussions.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York