



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 March 2007

Excellency,

I have the honour to invite you to the third informal thematic debate of the Sixty first Session of the General Assembly, on *Civilization and the Challenge for Peace: obstacles and opportunities*. The debate will be held on 10 and 11 May 2007, in New York.

The main objective of the debate is to unravel the reasons behind the increasing level of mistrust among people of different religions and cultures; and, to discuss the relationships between cultural and religious differences and conflicts.

The meeting will bring together Member States, a number of prominent intellectuals, representatives from non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society drawn from all over the world, with expertise in religion, politics, literature, science and the humanities.

The informal thematic debate will consist of four inter-active panel discussions on: *Respect for Cultural Diversity as a prerequisite for Dialogue; Religion in Contemporary Society; the Responsibility of the Media; and, Civilizations and the Challenge for Global Peace and Security*.

For your ease of reference, I am enclosing a background note and the provisional programme for the thematic debate.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Haya Rashed Al Khalifa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

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