



21 December 2006

Excellency,

As outlined in my previous letters to you of 5 October and 1 December 2006, I have the honour to inform you that the General Assembly will hold its second informal thematic debate, on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, on 6 and 7 March 2007.

At 2005 World Summit, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as an integral aspect of reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs. I am convinced that without further action on these important issues it will not be possible to achieve our shared development goals. The informal thematic debate will focus on two key topics, namely, the role of micro finance in the empowerment of women, and, women's participation in decision making at all levels.

I am hopeful that the meeting will provide Member States, in partnership with the UN system, regional organisations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, with an opportunity to have a frank and open exchange of views on the challenges we face to empower women and make gender equality a reality.

In light of the importance of this debate, I trust Member States will fully and actively participate in this event, including at Ministerial level. In due course, I will communicate further details to you on the format and program of this event.

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



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 December 2006

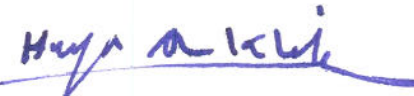
Excellency,

In my letter of 1 December, I informed you of my intentions in relation to the Report of the Secretary-General's High Level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence.

As you are aware the report of the High-level Panel on **System-wide Coherence** (A/61/583) has been issued as an official document. The Secretary-General has now officially informed me of his views and suggestions and drawn my attention to his introductory note to the report in his letter of 19 December. A copy of this letter is attached for your information. The Secretary-General has asked me to take this important matter forward with Member States.

Once Member States have had sufficient time to consider the report and the views of the Secretary General in detail, I intend to conduct consultations and would welcome your views and suggestions on the how best to proceed with this issue.

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



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

19 December 2006

Dear Madam President,

I would like to update you on the progress and follow-up efforts that have taken place since the launch of the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence, on 9 November 2006.

As you know, the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence (A/61/583) was released as an official document of the General Assembly on 13 December. I would like to draw your attention to my note at the beginning of the report with some suggestions on the way forward. In this regard, with the support of the United Nations executive heads, we have begun to move on a few recommendations that build on ongoing reform initiatives and existing intergovernmental mandates.

Moreover, I believe that implementation of the report's recommendations is in the interest of all Member States as they seek to strengthen the United Nations capacity to support global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. I would therefore be grateful if you could take the report forward with the Member States. I would also like to take this opportunity to once again urge the Member States to give due consideration and attention to the recommendations and support their timely implementation.

Please accept, Madam President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', written in a cursive style.

Kofi A. Annan

Her Excellency
Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa
President of the General Assembly
New York