8 February 2007

Excellency,

I have the honour to bring to your attention the programme for the informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on 6 and 7 March 2007, on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the list of confirmed panellists for the two interactive panel debates. Please be advised that short bios of the panellists will be put on the PGA website as they are received.

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

Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly
Promotion of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
6 and 7 March 2007

6 March
General debate on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. General Assembly Hall

- President of the General Assembly H.E. Haya Rashed Al Khalifa
- Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

Statements should not exceed 5 minutes

Panel debate on women in decision-making:
3-6 p.m. Trusteeship Council Chamber

- Ms. Beatriz Paredes, Fundacion Colosio
- Ms. Srilatha Batliwala, Chair of WEDO Board
- Ms. Pregaluxmis Govender
- Mr. Anders Johnsson, Secretary-General, Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Ms. Mary Robinson, Ethical Globalization Initiative
- Ms. Mallika Dutt, Executive Director Breakthrough Campaign (moderator)

7 March
Panel debate on empowerment of women including microfinance:
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Trusteeship Council Chamber

- Ms. Diane Elson, University of Essex
- Mr. Sam Daley-Harris, Director Microcredit Summit Campaign
- Ms. Gisele Yitamben, Founder and President, Association pour le Soutien et l'Appui à la Femme (ASAFE)
- Mr. Mohamed Chafiki, Director Financial Forecasts, Ministry of Finance and Privatization, Morocco
- (Moderator to be confirmed)

Please be advised that translation will be provided, including for the panel debates.