



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6 June 2007

Excellency,

I have the honor to refer to General Assembly resolution 61/178 of 20 December 2006 in which the Assembly decided to: a) defer consideration of and action on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to allow time for further consultations thereon; and b) conclude its consideration of the Declaration, as contained in the annex to the present resolution, before the end of its sixty-first session.

Since then, I have personally encouraged all interested parties to deal with this matter in constructive manner. Bearing in mind the timeframe set by the General Assembly, I am pleased to inform you of my decision to appoint His Excellency Hilario G. Davide, Jr., the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, to undertake, on my behalf, further consultations on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I wish to thank Ambassador Davide, Jr. for accepting this responsibility. Ambassador Davide, Jr. will conduct open and inclusive consultations, in formats that he will deem appropriate, with a view to reflecting the views of all concerned parties in this process. I expect him to report back to me on the outcome of his consultations as soon as possible, but not later than mid-July 2007.

In pursuing consideration of this important matter, I trust Member States will continue to be guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Given the very limited time remaining, I encourage Member States to enter these consultations in a flexible manner and to provide Ambassador Davide, Jr. with all necessary support. I shall personally closely follow this process of consultations.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Haya Rashed Al Khalifa". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line.

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

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