

21 September 2006

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,
on the International Day of Peace**

Secretary General,
Mrs. Annan,
Thank you for inviting me to this wonderful gathering.
Distinguished Guests,
Dear Children,

It is a profound honor for me to join the Secretary General in welcoming you to the United Nations.

This is your house.
This is the house our forefathers have built to bring people of all nationalities, colors, genders, religions together. This is the house where we all learn to nurture what we have in common so that we can collectively live together in harmony.

I have the privilege to be the President of the General Assembly which is composed of 192 countries that you so proudly represent here this morning.

Your presence here means a lot to us who believe in the United Nations.

On this International Day for Peace, during the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, I invite you and all the children of the world to be the messengers of peace, solidarity and respect for all human beings.

In a world where sadly so many children are confronted daily with hunger, disease and victims of violent conflicts, may you continue to stand tall and inherit the values and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Thank you.