

30 October 2006

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

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who will introduce the report of the Agency on its work during the past year.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. ElBaradei and the Agency on the award of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, which was bestowed upon them as a culmination of their efforts to ensure that nuclear energy is utilized for peaceful purposes in the safest possible way. That is testimony to the pivotal role played by the Agency, whether in monitoring the development of atomic energy and its application for scientific purposes and in providing assistance in this regard, or in terms of the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries, or of ensuring the safety and verification of nuclear installations and programmes. The most recent developments at the international level in this regard show how important it is for Member States to continue to support the Agency.

I now invite Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to introduce the report of the Agency for 2005.

Thank you.