

10 November 2006

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,
at the Launch of the International Human Solidarity Day**

Thank you Ambassador Intelman for organizing this event to celebrate 'International Human Solidarity Day'. There are some distinguished guests to speak to you today.

In the Millennium Declaration, World Leaders identified solidarity as one of the fundamental universal values of the twenty-first century.

Only in solidarity can we eradicate poverty and achievement the Millennium Development Goals.

I don't think there is anyone better placed to talk about the importance of Solidarity to achieve collective goals than the founder of the 'Solidarity' movement, former President of Poland, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate - Lech Walesa.

He has demonstrated, through the Solidarity movement that he with others created, that there is always hope for a better life when people come together, unite and rally behind a cause.

I would however like to remind you of something extremely profound that one of his fellow countrymen - Pope John Paul II - said about 'Solidarity and Development', being the two keys to peace.

"By simply being born into this world, we are of one inheritance and one stock with every other human being. This oneness expresses itself in all the richness and diversity of the human family: in different races, cultures, languages and histories. And we are called to recognize the basic solidarity of the human family as the fundamental condition of our life together on this earth."

Thank you.