

24 May 2007

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa,  
President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Election of the President for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General  
Assembly**

Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Excellency Dr. Srgjan Kerim of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

His election as President of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly is recognition of his personal qualities, and, his consistent efforts to promote peace and stability – values, the United Nations holds dear.

Dr Kerim has direct experience of the importance of multilateralism to resolve political disputes.

He can bring his significant political experience, at both the national and the international levels, in addition to a distinguished career in the private sector and academy to his leadership of this Assembly.

Holding high office is not new to Dr. Kerim. He has held several senior ministerial positions over the last two decades. And, having recently served his country as Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Kerim is very familiar with the inner working of this organization, and the dynamics of this House.

Dr. Kerim can bring this rich set of intellectual and leadership experience, in strategic positions in both the public and private sector to guide the work of the General Assembly.

It will be his task to manage a number of important ongoing reforms that are vital to the future of this organisation.

Strength of character, tireless commitment and determined leadership will be necessary to facilitate compromise and foster greater trust among Member States.

I am confident that all Member States will work together flexibly and constructively under Dr. Kerim's leadership to ensure a successful outcome to the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

Excellencies,

Continuity of leadership is an essential aspect of the revitalization and relevance of the work of the General Assembly. I will work closely with Dr Kerim during the transitional period to ensure that his Presidency gets off to an excellent start.

I wish Dr. Kerim every success.

It is my pleasure to invite His Excellency Dr. Kerim - President-elect of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly - to take the floor.