



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. SHEIKHA HAYA RASHED AL KHALIFA  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AT THE**

**CLOSING OF THE GENERAL DEBATE  
OF THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
27 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,






We have now concluded the General Debate of the Sixty-first Session of the General Assembly. I thank all of you for your valuable contributions.

The annual General Debate provides a unique opportunity for world leaders to meet and exchange views on the most pressing global issues and challenges. While there may not be agreement on all matters on our agenda, we share a common belief in the merit of dialogue and international cooperation. For this dialogue to be fruitful, we all agree that values such as mutual respect, tolerance and understanding should guide our work and deliberations.

For the past two weeks, we have had a rich and substantive debate. Your dignitaries have reaffirmed the centrality of the General Assembly's role as "the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations". It will not be possible for me to summarize all the points made,

your will to enable these new organs and institutions to live up to their potential.

You reaffirmed the role of the United Nations in fighting the scourge of terrorism and welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. You emphasized the need to take this work forward, ~~both by implementing the Strategy and by concluding the negotiations on a~~




comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

On institutional reforms, you made it clear that you would like to see further progress on Secretariat and management reform, including mandate review; Security Council reform; strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly revitalization.

In addition, you would like the United Nations to assume a more proactive role both in the prevention and in the resolution of armed conflicts. You have underlined the importance of reaching a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis. You have also expressed the need to resolve the situation in Darfur.

You have called on the United Nations to take a lead in the prevention of



ideas that you may have for our program of work. My door will always be open to you.

We must approach our work in a transparent, efficient and coherent manner

