

**General Assembly**

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**Sixty-first session****Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-first session****Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies****Letter dated 15 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to inform you of the successful outcome of the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, which was organized by the Government of the State of Qatar, the host country, in cooperation with the United Nations.

I also would like to express the profound appreciation and gratitude of the Government of the State of Qatar for your effective participation at the Conference and for the solid support you extended to this very significant International Conference of New or Restored Democracies movement. Your presence was, in large measure, a contributory factor to the success of the Doha Conference.

The Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies reaffirmed the core principles and values of democracy and provided new perspectives and dimensions in respect of the need to promote, preserve and consolidate the democratization process throughout the world. The Conference had two main objectives: to enhance the linkages among democracy, peace and social progress in the global development agenda and to initiate systematic implementation and follow-up steps to consolidate the achievements and recommendations emanating from the previous important International Conferences of New or Restored Democracies which began in 1988 (Manila, 1988; Managua, 1994; Bucharest, 1997; Cotonou, Benin, 2000; and Ulaanbaatar, 2003).

The various interactive dialogues, round tables and forums, which brought together Governments, parliamentarians and civil society organizations, constituted a major feature of the Doha Conference. Their deliberations were enriching and



their outcomes significant. From the Government side, there were three concrete and substantive outcomes: the Doha Declaration, the Joint Statement and the draft final report.

The Doha Declaration is pertinent for two reasons: first, it reaffirmed the determination of numerous States Members of the United Nations to adhere to the universal relevance of democratic values, principles and standards; and second, it addressed the issue of the support of concerned member States of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies for establishing follow-up steps to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Conference movement. In effect, the Doha Declaration requested the Chair of the Sixth Conference to take the necessary measures to guarantee appropriate implementation and follow-up of the recommendations of the Conferences, with the assistance of an Advisory Board, for a duration of three years.

The Joint Statement of representatives of Governments, parliamentarians and civil society heralded the pledge to cooperate and build effective tripartite partnerships among these three prominent groups in pursuit of core democratic values and principles. The Joint Statement welcomed the Doha Declaration and called for the establishment of a consultative council and an international steering committee to implement the recommendations of the Parliamentary Forum and the Civil Society Forum, respectively.

The final report of the Conference is being prepared and involves the collaboration of the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

I would kindly request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, the inclusion of an additional item, entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies", in the agenda of the sixty-first session of the Assembly in order that a draft resolution might be considered under this item.

(Signed) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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