

Secretary-General's meeting with H.E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy and Industry, Qatar, and Chairman of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) – 28 February 2007

*[Qatar in recent years has made significant progress in its socio-economic development. The Government has implemented a number of changes in public participation, creating an elected Council and giving women the right to vote. In addition, Qatar has stepped up its effort to promote education, science and technology, public health and social development, as well as environmental protection. In the Middle East, the Government of Qatar has also been playing an increasingly important role, contributing some \$300 million to the reconstruction of Lebanon. Minister Al-Attiyah is leading Qatar's support in this undertaking.]*

- **I commend the Government of Qatar for its important contributions to world peace and sustainable development, as well as your personal efforts in this endeavour.**
- **I invite the Government of Qatar to increase its development aid in support of sustainable development, especially in the Middle East and Africa.**

*[In recognition of Qatar's leadership in sustainable development, Member States elected Minister Al-Attiyah as Chairman of the 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Government of Qatar has adopted an open-minded position concerning energy security and climate change, participating actively in global climate change negotiations. The 15th session of the CSD will be held between 30 April and 11 May 2007. This is the policy year of the second implementation cycle during which the Commission will continue its focus on the following areas: Energy for Sustainable Development; Industrial Development; Air pollution/ Atmosphere; and Climate Change.]*

- **I commend you for your personal commitment to sustainable development and your leadership in the work of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.**
- **I think I will be able to deliver the opening address at the High-level Segment of CSD-15 on 9 May 2007 in New York. I hope that CSD-15 will make concrete progress in improving access to energy, achieving the MDGs, and combating climate change.**

*[The Government of Qatar has also put forward a proposal, that the S-G considers appointing Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned a UN Goodwill Ambassador for sustainable development, helping to promote peace and economic and social development. The first request for this appointment was presented to S-G Annan in December 2006. He declined, explaining that he not intended making any new appointment or take any policy decision on the creation of a new line of Goodwill Ambassadors at the last stage of his tenure. As consort of the Emir of Qatar, Sheikha Al-Missned is a well-known international public figure who has launched a large number of regional and international initiatives in education, public health, family wellbeing, environmental and cultural heritage, as well as research in science and technology. She established the International Fund for Higher Education in Iraq, which is dedicated to the reconstruction of institutions of advanced learning in Iraq. She was a member of the UN High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations, set up to develop creative mechanisms for combating extremism and promoting tolerance and mutual respect among cultures. ]*

- **I commend the commitment of HH Sheikha Mozah Al-Missned on promoting peace and sustainable development in Middle East, Africa and other parts of the world. At this stage my priorities are the nomination of senior managers, the UN restructuring and the preparation of my report on the proposal of the High-Level Panel on UN system wide-coherence in the area of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. In a second time, I intend to revise the policy of my special envoy. I welcome the proposal to appoint Sheikha Mozah Al-Missned a UN Goodwill Ambassador.**