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دولة الكويت

**STATEMENT OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

**DELIVRED BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY SHEIKH SABAH KHALED AL-HAMAD  
AL-SABAH**

**FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER &  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**BEFORE**

**THE HIGH LEVEL-MEETING ON  
“ADDRESSING LARGE MOVEMENTS OF  
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS”**

**MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK**



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH ---THE MERCIFUL  
--- THE COMPASSIONATE

Your Majesties, Excellencies, & Highnesses,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It pleases me at the outset to express my sincerest thanks and gratitude to the President of the General Assembly, and to the heads of the participating panel, on their appreciated efforts in setting up and preparing for this meeting, and for facilitating reaching an agreement on the Political Document, which expresses the awareness of the international community of the magnitude of the suffering affecting many of the peoples of the world, caused by harsh humanitarian conditions, that require collective action, in order to confront them, since they have become a threat to the security and stability of the States and peoples of the world.

Mr. President,

The meeting on “ Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants” is being convened today, under exceptional circumstances that our world is witnessing, and at a critical stage characterized by an increase in the frequency of humanitarian crises, and the exacerbation of losses, as a result of armed conflicts or natural disasters. Our world cannot enjoy stability and advance towards development and prosperity, in the presence



of more than 65 million people, who are refugees or internally displaced persons. This is in addition to other alarming figures being reported by international Specialized Agencies, which calls for an urgent and effective response from the international community, in order to tackle and confront such situations in a sustainable manner for the long haul.

The accelerating challenges, our world is witnessing today, manifold in their causes and repercussions, place us before a difficult situation, and drive us to enhance the efforts concerning the provision of humanitarian aid to those who need it, wherein a large percentage of people live in countries other than their own. wherein the number of refugees in 2015 has reached 224 million people, which makes this large and increasing percentage bigger than that of the global population growth . Here, the United Nations role, is needed to create innovative mechanisms, and come up with creative ideas, in order to implement the effective response, that would deal with the crises ravaging our world, whose numbers have multiplied significantly during the past ten years, whether they result from all kinds of natural disasters, or are due to the increase of strife and armed conflicts, that are claiming the lives of civilians, women, children and the elderly , as well as exposing the lives of everyone else to different kinds of dangers; due to the inability of the international community to reach unified and effective positions, to put an end to those conflicts and their root causes, in order to protect the victims of large movements of refugees and migrants.



In this regard, we emphasize the need to act urgently to address the causes of those conflicts, and work towards reaching political solutions to stop the bloodshed, compel the parties to those conflicts, to shoulder their responsibilities to protect civilians, allow access of humanitarian aid to those who deserve it, respect the Charter of the United Nations, the international humanitarian law, the human rights law, and the international refugee law. We also need to activate the international mechanisms to criminalize all internationally banned acts , and insist that impunity cannot be an option in armed conflicts.

Perhaps the extremely difficult fluctuations that the Middle East region witnesses, as a result of the proliferation of conflicts and civil wars ,and in particular, their political, economic social, developmental and humanitarian consequences across the borders, must drive us to foster our joint action to address the extraordinary conditions being endured by the peoples of the region, especially in Palestine, Syria, Yemen, and Somalia. Here we would like to remind the international community of its responsibility to protect those peoples from the danger of drifting towards the vicious circle of violence and terrorism. The international community must also combat the so-called “xenophobia”, fanaticism and violence against refugees and migrants, especially , if this is based on religion or ethnicity, by fulfilling their aspirations and hopes to live in peace and security, as well as enabling them to live a free and dignified life.



In this regard, we emphasize the need to resolve all protracted refugees crises; including the plight of the refugees of Palestine, who are still suffering from oppressive injustice for almost seven decades. We, therefore affirm their right of return, and call for a just solution for their plight, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III), and the Arab Peace Initiative. Until such a solution materializes, we demand continued support and assistance from the international community, to the Palestinian refugees, by providing adequate support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, (UNRWA). And also ensuring their protection in accordance with the International Humanitarian Law.

Mr. President,

The State of Kuwait firmly believes in the importance of joint international action, and the need to enhance and develop such action. We are also convinced that the challenges our world is facing today, cannot be confronted by one country, or a group of countries alone, but rather, through collective effort and a shared responsibility, particularly towards the host countries. Furthermore, the State of Kuwait; from the time it attained its independence; has been persistent in providing humanitarian assistance to all the countries in need, regardless of any geographic, religious or ethnic divisions, and has never hesitated in exerting its sincerest efforts, to provide humanitarian assistance to affected countries and peoples, wherein the gross amount it has provided in the field of



humanitarian assistance, during the past five years alone , has exceeded 2 billion dollars.

The unanimously adopted Political Declaration on “ Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants” represent an important step on the path of our collective humanitarian action. We look forward, with a great deal of hope and determination , to see that our meeting today will strengthen the joint international efforts, to face up to the obstacles and risks that our world faces, as well as to finding innovative means to overcome them. We also emphasize that the United Nations Organization, remains the most adequate venue for international multilateral action, to achieve our purposes, fulfill our aspirations, as well as follow up and assess the steps that were achieved in dealing with the humanitarian crises, and the great challenge they pose in the face of achieving international peace and security, all over the world.

**THE PEACE, MERCY, AND BLESSINGS OF ALLAH BE UPON YOU**