

Office of
His Highness the Amir
State of Kuwait

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



مكتبة
حضرة صاحب السمو أمير البلاد
دولة الكويت

STATEMENT OF

HIS HIGHNESS

**SHEIKH SABAH AL AHMAD AL JABER AL SABAH
AMIR OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

AT

THE LEADERS' SUMMIT ON REFUGEES

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK**

TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2016



Your Excellency, President Barack Obama
President of the friendly United States of America,
Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses,
Your Excellency, the Secretary General of the United Nations,
Mr. Ban Ki-Moon,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

It pleases me at the outset to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency and dear friend, President Barack Obama, and to the sponsoring countries, for their call to convene this important meeting. I also commend the great efforts that were exerted in its preparation.

This important meeting is being convened upon a generous initiative, that reflects a high degree of international attention to alleviate the suffering of refugees and migrants, who according to United Nations statistics, now number 65 million refugees.

It is incumbent upon us here, to pay tribute to the host countries, for hosting great numbers of refugees, and endure mounting economic hardships. On the other hand, the continuation of these commitments would weaken our capabilities to meet our humanitarian and developmental role.



We are cognizant that the humanitarian catastrophe our world is living today requires uniting the efforts of the international community, to confront such a catastrophe, by working on putting an end to the conflicts, and to the scenes of killing and destruction, that are constantly present before our eyes.

Recognizing its humanitarian obligations in its regional and international surroundings, my country Kuwait, sought to provide bilateral and international assistance, to alleviate the effects of natural disasters and crises, either directly to the affected countries, or through specialized international agencies, or by organizing and hosting several donor conferences, wherein the total amount of assistance Kuwait has provided to the community of refugees and displaced, during the past five years, exceeded 2 billion dollars, including its recent pledge at the London Conference in the amount of 300 million dollars, in support of the humanitarian situation of the refugees; whereby it started first year funding of educational and health programs to the children of the refugees and displaced in the host countries. Kuwait also decided to earmark the amount of 5 million dollars of the aforementioned amount to the educational programs of UNRWA. Additionally, the State of Kuwait recently pledged the amount of 176 million dollars, to support the situation of the Iraqi refugees and displaced wherein it started funding health, educational and relief projects, via United Nations Organizations dealing in humanitarian affairs, and through Kuwaiti philanthropic associations.

The contributions of my country Kuwait, to alleviate the impact of the humanitarian disaster for the brothers in Syria, were not limited to the provision of material assistance only, but surpassed that, to receiving more than 130,000 Syrian citizens since the outbreak of the crisis there; a number equivalent to ten percent of the total Kuwaiti population of 1.3 million people; to be reunited with their families residing in Kuwait who number 150,000. My country would also consider receiving another 3,000 individuals over the next



five years, and shall not abandon this approach, and would continue in its pursuit to alleviate the suffering of the brotherly Syrian people.

My country has also doubled its fixed voluntary contributions to a number of international agencies and organizations that deal with refugee situations, thus occupying the top spots, when comparing the volume of the assistance it provides to the level of its national income.

From this podium, I would like to stress that my country will continue to meet its humanitarian commitments, and its support for the international community to help alleviate the pains of humanity from the destructive conflicts.

In conclusion, I thank you all once again, and wish our meeting success.

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