

*Diwan of
His Highness the Prime Minister
State of Kuwait*



دولة الكويت
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
مَجْلِسُ الْوُزَرَاءِ
دَوْلَةُ الْكُوَيْتِ

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STATEMENT OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT

DELIVERED BY

**HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH JABER AL MUBARAK AL HAMAD AL SABAH
PRIME MINISTER OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

BEFORE THE

SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL DEBATE

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS – NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016



In the Name of Allah – The Merciful – The Compassionate

Mr. President
Your Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah be upon you

It pleases me at the outset to extend our sincere congratulations to you, and to your friendly country, the Republic of Fiji, on your election as President of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and to assure you of my country's full cooperation with you, to facilitate the carrying out of your responsibilities.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to pay tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, for his efforts and his success in presiding over the deliberations of the previous session.

Here, I cannot but extend, our sincerest thanks and appreciation to His Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations, whose mandate will expire by the end of this year, after spending almost ten years at the helm of this inveterate Organization, during which he has worked diligently and honestly to promote international peace and security, and has played a prominent role in activating and developing the performance of the United Nations organs, and the achievements represented by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the signing on the global agreement on Climate Change.

In this regard, we would like to wish His Excellency success in his future endeavors, and look forward to his continued service of the causes of security, peace and development.

Mr. President,

In this new Session of the General Assembly, we convene under the theme, "The Sustainable Development Goals: A Universal Push to Transform Our World" and under unprecedented challenges and difficulties facing our world in the security and economic fields. This requires greater coordination, and the doubling of efforts, in order to overcome such challenges, limit their impact, and address their root causes. In this connection, the State of Kuwait welcomes the two historic agreements, on climate change signed by Kuwait on this podium last April, and on the 2030

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Sustainable Development Agenda, which we hope would lead to the realization of its objectives and purposes, inclusive by their character. We also pledge to exert all efforts in contributing effectively; within the framework of an international partnership, to fully implement the Sustainable Development Goals during the coming fourteen years.

Mr. President,

From the time the State of Kuwait attained its independence in 1961, it has set for itself a consistent approach, according to which, it would stand by Developing and Least Developed Countries, proceeding from its firm belief in the need to assist countries afflicted by natural disasters, and to lend a helping hand to those suffering from the scourges of war, in a manner that would ensure the enhancement of its relations with the countries and peoples of the world. Thus, Kuwait has attained a prestigious position among the donors of humanitarian assistance, as a result of its initiatives and its continued response to the appeals launched by the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, for alleviating the suffering of affected peoples and countries all over the world, and help them cope with their crises. As Kuwait is also eager to reach a world wherein justice and equality would prevail in support of human values, and wherein the “haves” would give the deserving “have nots” without conditions. In this regard, I would like to reiterate Kuwait’s intention to pay up all its pledges of the voluntary contributions it announces at international conferences.

According to United Nations statistics for 2015, Kuwait has held the first place in providing humanitarian assistance as a ratio of its Gross Domestic Income. While Kuwait takes pride in such recognition, the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development continues its pioneering role of providing soft loans and grants to fund development programs that have benefitted 105 countries in various parts of the world, which amounted to almost 20 billion dollars.

Mr. President,

Consistently adhering to the lofty principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the State of Kuwait has worked on achieving and laying down the foundations of security and stability in our region, and participating in all efforts that contribute to the promotion of international peace and security. In this regard, I would like to refer to the crisis in Yemen, and to renew our support of the political solution there under the auspices of the United Nations, according to the agreed upon references, i.e., the Outcomes of the National Dialogue, The Initiative of the GCC

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Countries and its Implementation Mechanism, as well as Security Council resolution 2216. In facilitation of that solution, the State of Kuwait hosted the Yemeni Peace Talks under the auspices of the United Nations from April until August 2016, in order to restore the security and stability in Yemen, while preserving its independence, sovereignty, and its territorial integrity. Here we renew our praise and support of the efforts being exerted by the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad, and call upon him to intensify those efforts for the prompt resumption of the dialogue between the Yemeni parties under the auspices of the United Nations.

In Syria, we follow with concern the continuing crisis there, now entering its 6th year, with worsening conditions all over the country. In view of the deteriorating humanitarian situation that led to the displacement of 13 million Syrians, inside and outside the country, making the Syrian people the largest refugee community in the world, while the number of those who were killed has exceeded 250,000. In this respect, we strongly condemn the intentional targeting of residential areas, civil and medical facilities, the indiscriminate bombing and dropping of barrel bombs, as well as the use of internationally banned weapons. We also demand that all those responsible of perpetrating war crimes and crimes against humanity be brought before the International Justice System.

In this context, and driven by its desire to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people, the State of Kuwait hosted 3 international donor conferences, in support of the humanitarian situation in Syria, wherein the pledges made exceeded the amount of 7 billion dollars, of which my country's contribution was 1.3 billion dollars, the bulk of which was given to Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with humanitarian affairs. This in addition to Kuwait's participation as co-chair of the fourth conference in support of the humanitarian situation in Syria, held in London at the beginning of this year.

The State of Kuwait renews its support of the endeavors of the United Nations, and to the international efforts aiming to reach a political solution in Syria, in accordance with resolution 2254, which has identified a clear path for the political solution, based on the communiqué of the first Geneva Conference of 2012, and the two Vienna communiqués. I also would like to laud the efforts of the United States and the Russian Federation to reach a ceasefire, that would pave the way for holding political talks among the Syrian parties, in order to reach a settlement that would



maintain the sovereignty, unity and independence of Syria, and fulfills the legitimate hopes and aspirations of the brotherly Syrian people.

Mr. President,

As part of the international efforts to combat the phenomena of terrorism, extremism and acts of violence, which began to increase and form a new international reality, due to the continuing crises in the region lacking a permanent solution. It is therefore, incumbent upon us to recognize that combating this odious phenomenon is an international responsibility, and no one country by itself, no matter how much it tries, can confront or eliminate it. It is also morally impermissible to link this phenomenon to any nationality, religion or civilization.

The State of Kuwait reiterates its principled and firm position, in condemning terrorist acts in all their forms and manifestations, as well as its total rejection of all acts of violence and extremism, that do not only contravene international laws and norms, but also the teachings of the true religion of Islam, and all other divine religions, in addition to cultural and human values.

In this context, the State of Kuwait contributes effectively to combating terrorism, by providing support and backing to the international coalition, established to combat the so-called (Daesh) terrorist group in Iraq.

In this respect we reiterate our position to stand by and support the Government of Iraq , and commend its achievements in combating terrorism, and facing up to ISIL(Daesh), and emphasize our support of the measures and actions it takes, to maintain the security, stability, and territorial integrity of Iraq.

Concerning the situation in Libya, which is a source of grave concern, the State of Kuwait welcomes the decision by the Presidential Council, to form the Government of National Accord, and consider that an important step towards the implementation of the provisions of the Libyan Political Agreement, which we hope would assist our Libyan brothers overcome the present situation, in a manner that would preserve the unity and independence of Libya, and the prosperity of its people.

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Mr. President,

The inability of the international community to find a permanent and comprehensive solution to the conflict in the Middle East, now threatens the peace and security in the region, more than ever before, as a result of the oppressive practices of the Israeli occupation forces, and Israel's consistent and unjustifiable use of excessive force against the Palestinian people, in flagrant and clear violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949. The persistence of the Israeli occupation authority, in its aggressive practices and policies, emanate, more regrettably so, from a firm conviction, that Israel is immune to any international accountability, exempt from any prosecution, and protected from any criticism or condemnation by the international organizations. It is therefore, incumbent upon the Security Council to carry out its responsibilities, and keep the pressure, to compel Israel, to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, that would lead to the attainment of the Palestinian people their legitimate political rights, and the recognition of their own independent state, over their own territory, with East Jerusalem as its capital, along the borders of 4 June 1967, in accordance with the concept of land for peace, and the Arab Peace Initiative. In complementing the support that the State of Kuwait provides to the Question of Palestine, it is currently working on hosting an international conference on the suffering of the Palestinian children, through which, Israel's serious and persistent violations of international conventions and norms relating to the rights of the child will be highlighted.

In this regard, I would like to praise the initiative of the friendly Republic of France, and its efforts to push the Middle East peace process forward, by hosting an international conference on 3 June 2016, that reflects its interest in launching anew the process, with a view to its leading to a just and comprehensive solutions in the region.

Concerning the relations with the friendly Islamic Republic of Iran, we along with the GCC countries, look forward to relations of friendship and cooperation with Iran, wherein understanding and mutual respect prevail, as we emphasize the importance of creating the appropriate conditions for any constructive dialogue to take place, in accordance with the rules and norms of international law, relating to the principle of good neighborly relations, respect of sovereignty of States, and non-interference in their internal affairs, and refraining from any practices that contravene international conventions and norms, that threaten the security and stability of the region, in addition to ending the occupation of the three Emirati

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islands, and responding to the endeavours of the sisterly United Arab Emirates, to resolve this question, through direct negotiations or resorting to the International Court of Justice.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I am pleased to refer to the candidature of the State of Kuwait for membership in the Security Council, for the period 2018-2019, and would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend my thanks to all the Member States of the Asia-Pacific Group in New York, who endorsed Kuwait's candidature to this seat last month. We look forward to the support of all the Member States of the United Nations, in the upcoming elections that would be held during the month of June of next year. As I emphasize my country's commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter; being a small peace-loving country; that bases its relations with others on the principles of respecting the sovereignty, independence, good neighborly relations and non-interference in their internal affairs; we look forward to contribute to finding solutions by consensus to the various global challenges, for the maintenance of international peace and security by peaceful ways and means.

The Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah be upon you.