

*Permanent Mission
of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations
New York*



وَقَدْ دَوْلَةُ الْكُوَيْتِ الدَّائِمُ
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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. SHEIKH DR. MOHAMMAD SABAH AL SALEM AL SABAH
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT

BEFORE THE

SIXTY FIRST SESSION

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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In the Name of Allah
The Compassionate, the Merciful

Madame President, Sheikha Haya Bin Rashed Al Khalifa,

It pleases me to convey to you, in the name of the State of Kuwait, its government and people, our most sincere congratulations to you personally, and to your brotherly country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, on your election as President of the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly; we also wish to express our pride and honour in seeing you assume this important international high office, which you undoubtedly deserve, thanks to your experience and high qualifications. We also would like to assure Your Excellency of our total readiness to cooperate with you in a serious and constructive manner in order to facilitate your execution of the enormous duties you are shouldering.

I cannot fail to mention here, with total appreciation, the efforts of your predecessor, the Foreign Minister of Sweden, Mr. Jan Eliasson for his wise and successful presidency and conduct of work of the previous session.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express our admiration and appreciation for the outstanding role, H.E. the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan is playing at the helm of this organization, and his ongoing efforts to enhance and activate the performance of its

different bodies, so that they would become more democratic, transparent and suitable to face the challenges of this century, also more effective in carrying out the duties assigned to them in the fields of peace, security and development.

In this context, Kuwait welcomes the joining of a new member to our organization, the Republic of Montenegro, there is no doubt that its joining will enhance the global character of the United Nations and contribute to the consecration of respect to the principles and purposes of the Charter.

Madame President,

Our leaders have expressed in the final document issued by the 2005 World Summit, their firm belief and conviction in the important role of this organization as an umbrella for multilateral work, they have drawn a roadmap for us to follow so that we work on finding solutions to major international threats and challenges, which on the whole represent a threat for international peace and security such as terrorism, deterioration of the environment, human rights violations, poverty, hunger, and the spread of dangerous and infectious diseases, like AIDS and Malaria.

What causes great concern is the appearance of other challenges to international peace and security, and which are no less dangerous than the aforementioned ones, such as the incitement of hatred, xenophobia, in its various forms, such as Islamophobia, and all kinds of racial, ethnic and religious discrimination.

After one year has elapsed, and despite of the extensive efforts exerted to follow-up the implementation of the Summit's resolution, regrettably, there is still a need to double those efforts to achieve accomplishment in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation, combatting terrorism, creating an equilibrium between developed and developing countries in international trade, and reforming the Security Council which will lead to enhancing its authority and efficiency, and lend more transparency and greater fairness to its decisions through giving due consideration to the representation of small states which make up more than one half of the member states in the United Nations.

Madame President,

The State of Kuwait hopes that efforts will be consolidated in order to promote dialogue and to advance the level of international coordination and cooperation to overcome the problems that impede achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the various regions of the world. Kuwait will maintain its course in adhering to the provisions, principles and purposes of international agreements and conventions.

While we take pride of the level, of social, economic and political development that have been reached in Kuwait, according to the annual international reports issued by the specialized agencies of the United Nations, this will not divert us from continuing our efforts to further improve

the social and economical conditions which will favor the Kuwaiti citizen's standard of living and prosperity.

In this context, Kuwait from its side, shall continue to support, in conformity with its means, the efforts of many developing countries to achieve their development goals. This is done through the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development, which finances infrastructure projects through granting soft loans, which up till now amounted to 12 billion dollars, from which more than 100 countries have benefitted. Kuwait also contributes to the funding of development projects in developing countries through U.N. Programmes and specialized agencies, organizations and regional associations. Within the framework of supporting international efforts to eradicate poverty, Kuwait announced last month that it will provide 300 million dollars to the Islamic Development Bank to combat poverty in Africa.

Madame President,

Kuwait follows with grave concern, the difficult security conditions Iraq is witnessing as a result of the continued terrorist acts that target the Iraqi people, state institutions and economic and social facilities. Despite the progress in the political process which led to the formation of a constitutionally elected government, the difficult security conditions impede realizing a similar progress in the field of rebuilding what the previous regime has destroyed as a result of its hostile policies towards its own people and neighbours.

Kuwait reiterates its commitment to all relevant Security Council resolutions and vows to continue supporting the efforts of the Iraqi Government to rebuild, confront security problems and achieve national concord between the various factions of the Iraqi people. We hope the international community will multiply its efforts to support the endeavors of the Iraqi Government and those of the League of Arab States to achieve security and stability in Iraq, which in turn, will contribute to achieving peace and security in the region. There is no doubt that a democratic, secure, stable and prosperous Iraq which respects human rights and which is a master over its own decision without any interference in its internal affairs and lives in peace with its neighbours, will be in the interest of all the states in the region, without any exception. This is what Kuwait hopes for and seeks to achieve.

In this regard, we commend the continuation of the prosecution of the key elements of the previous Iraqi regime, for their inhuman crimes committed against the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples, crimes represented in their invasion of Kuwait, and their killing of Kuwaiti captives and citizens of other nationalities. We hope that they will receive their just punishment in the near future.

On the regional level, and in what relates to the issue of the disputed three Emirati islands, Kuwait supports the position of the Gulf Cooperation Council vis-à-vis this issue, it hopes that negotiations will resume and intensify at all levels between the brotherly United Arab Emirates and the

friendly Islamic Republic of Iran, to work on finding a solution for this conflict, in conformity with the principles and rules of international law, and good neighbourly relations, which would enhance the security and stability of the region.

Concerning the Iranian nuclear file, Kuwait calls upon all the concerned parties to spare the region any crisis that may lead to undermining the security and stability of this vital region, which, for the last two decades, has been the theater of conflicts and wars that has wasted the fortunes of its countries, dispersed their resources and delayed their development. Therefore, we hope that action will be taken to resolve this crisis by diplomatic means. We urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue its cooperation with the IAEA and the international community to dispel any fears or doubts surrounding the nature and aims of its nuclear programme. In this context, we affirm our position on the necessity of making the Middle East, including the Gulf region, an area free from all weapons of mass destruction, including Israel, which must accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and subject all of its nuclear facilities to the guarantees of the IAEA.

Madame President,

During the last few weeks, the brotherly Republic of Lebanon was subjected to a vicious Israeli aggression, which caused the death of hundreds of innocent civilians and injuring thousands others, more than 1 million people became refugees. Moreover, scores of homes, bridges and civilian

installations were purposely targeted to destroy the infrastructure in a systematic practice of state terrorism, in flagrant violation of International Humanitarian Law.

Kuwait, in that instant, condemned very strongly those shameful inhuman crimes against the brotherly people of Lebanon. Out of its duty and fulfillment of its responsibilities, driven by the close brotherly relations, Kuwait, its people and government rushed to organize immediate relief operations, to alleviate the suffering of the Lebanese people by providing humanitarian aid through the Kuwaiti Red Crescent and the joint Kuwaiti Committee for the support of the Lebanese people, this in addition to aid from other civil associations and the private sector. The Kuwaiti Government also announced the donation of 324 million dollars, to participate in the efforts of rebuilding and constructing what has been destroyed by the Israeli aggression.

And, while Kuwait welcomes the measures taken by the international community to implement Security Council resolution no. 1701, it calls on Israel to stop its repeated aggressions against the sovereignty of Lebanon, and to respect its independence and territorial integrity, it calls on the international community to assist and support the Lebanese Government to spread its control over all of the Lebanese soil, and support any endeavor to regain all of its rights, including its compensation for what it lost as a result of the Israeli aggression.

Madame President,

The core of the Middle East crisis is the Palestinian Question. This question, regrettably remains stalled. The international endeavors and efforts to move it forward clash with Israeli intransigence and rejection to implement international resolutions, as well as its disavowal from the international conventions and agreements it has signed with the concerned parties within the framework of the peace process.

The continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories shall always be a source of tension and instability in the Middle East. The repeated Israeli military incursions in the occupied territories, the oppressive practices against the Palestinian people, and the undermining of the Palestinian Authority shall not benefit the Israeli Government, nor shall its continued aggression and deliberate destruction of the Palestinian infrastructure, and national Palestinian institutions secure its alleged security. The solution lies in resolving the root causes of the problem and by restoring the rights to their owners, so that all the peoples in the region can enjoy peace and stability.

In this context, we renew our total support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to obtain all their lawful political rights, and establish their independent state over their own land with Jerusalem as its capital. We demand from the Israeli Government to withdraw from all the Arab lands it occupies, including the Syrian Golan Heights in implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, foremost among which are 242, 338, 1397,

1515, as well as the principle of land for peace. Here, we wish to remind of the vital importance of the Arab Peace Initiative, which was adopted by the Arab Summit in Beirut in 2002, as being the only strategic option to achieve a permanent, just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Madame President,

Since its founding, the United Nations has achieved numerous accomplishments and demonstrated its efficacy in the establishment of peace and security in different parts of the world, it contributed to preventing many problems from exacerbating until it became an indispensable tool for the international community to confront issues and challenges of global nature. It is our hope that the United Nations record of accomplishments in achieving peace and security will soon include Iraq, the Middle East, Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan and other countries that are still witnessing conflicts and wars which killed many of their citizens, wasted their resources and destroyed their capabilities and delayed their march towards development and progress.

Thank you, Madame President.