

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



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STATEMENT

BY

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

BEFORE THE

SIXTY-SECOND SESSION

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

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Mr. President,

We congratulate you on your election as President of the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and recall with total appreciation the efforts of your predecessor, H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa for her successful conduct of the work of the previous session.

We also express our appreciation for the outstanding role H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations is assuming in his wise leadership of this organization.

Mr. President,

Despite the fact that two years have elapsed, since the 2005 World Summit was convened, and six years since the Millennium Summit, the challenges and dangers facing international peace and security, such as, terrorism, poverty, the spread of dangerous and infectious diseases like AIDS and Malaria, the deterioration of the environment and the violation of human rights are still present and standing before us. Last year's most outstanding achievements, the establishment of a peace building committee, a human rights council, an emergency humanitarian fund and a democracy support

fund, in addition to the introduction of administrative and financial reforms into the work of the United Nations Secretariat, are all considered necessary achievements, but are not enough to combat terrorism, eliminate weapons of mass destruction, affect climate change and achieve sustainable development in the developing countries and the least developed ones.

Moreover, the revival of racial bias, religious seditions, incitement of hatred and xenophobia represent a serious threat to international peace and security, which require a serious and firm opposition from our strong organization.

The time has come to change our method and style of dealing with these universal challenges and perils and move from the phase of "what should be done" to the phase of actual work and the truthful fulfillment of the commitments we have taken upon ourselves in a number of international conferences as well as in international agreements and conventions we have signed and ratified.

The State of Kuwait have made good progress in translating the commitments and resolutions of the 2005 World Summit into tangible realities, it also achieved the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the fields of education, health and advancing the role of women in the society. It designed policies capable of uplifting the society and realizing more progress, more social and economic development, as well as raising the individual standard of living. Moreover, these policies contributed to the

efforts leading to the consolidation of the principles of tolerance, moderation and the rejection of fanaticism.

Departing from its absolute belief in the human values represented by supporting the aggrieved and helping the one in need. Since its independence, my country, has taken the initiative of adopting a generous aid program for the developing countries. In 1961 it established the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which financed hundreds of infrastructure projects in more than 100 countries, whose values exceeded 12 billion dollars.

The State of Kuwait is also committed to provide annual voluntary contributions to numerous international specialized agencies, in addition to regional organizations and funds that assist the developing countries achieve their development goals. Recently, the State of Kuwait appropriated 300 million dollars to the Islamic Bank for Development, to eliminate poverty in Africa, this is over and above what it gives in humanitarian and relief aid to many countries that are ravaged by natural disasters.

It is regrettable to see poverty, hunger and sickness continue in the developing countries, it is even painful to see more than half of the world's population living on less than two dollars a day, this requires a serious close look and a real review of the impediments of development in the developing countries. Here, the State of Kuwait demands from the World Trade Organization and the Bretton Woods Institutions to alleviate the restrictions

imposed on the exports of the developing countries and put forward a more just and equitable trade system for the developing countries and the least developed ones.

Mr. President,

Kuwait follows with concern the developments of the situation in Iraq, and while it welcomes in this regard; the improvements in security conditions in some areas and provinces in Iraq, as a result of arrangements and the implementation of a plan to enforce security carried out by the international forces in Iraq, with the participation of Iraqi security forces; there remains a dire need to double the efforts at all levels, particularly on the political track, in order to confront the security challenges represented by terrorist operations that target civilians, houses of worship, and state institutions and cost the lives of scores of innocent people daily.

It is our hope that the efforts and endeavors exerted by the Iraqi Government to achieve national reconciliation will be fruitful, with positive results that can lead to a comprehensive national consensus, which will take into consideration the concerns and the rights of all those who comprise the Iraqi people. National reconciliation is the only way to build a democratic, free, secure and independent Iraq, living in peace with itself and its neighbours, and respects its international obligations and commitments.

In this context, we welcome Security Council resolution 1770, which consolidated the duties and the mandate of the United Nations Mission for Assistance in Iraq, as we look forward to the international community to play a vital and important role to help Iraq fulfill its obligations within the context of the International Compact with Iraq, in the political aspect as well as in the economical.

As for the issue of the three Emirati occupied islands, Kuwait confirms its support for the position departing from the point of view of the Gulf Cooperation Council vis-à-vis this issue, and hopes that efforts and contacts at all levels will intensify between the sisterly State of the Arab Emirates and the friendly Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to find a solution for this dispute, according to the principles and rules of international law and good neighbourly relations, which will contribute to strengthening the security and stability of the region.

Mr. President,

Since the middle of the past century, the Middle East crisis has been stagnant. The plight of the Palestinian people continues, their rights are violated, their lands occupied and Security Council resolutions paralyzed.

Despite intensive international and regional efforts to revive the peace process in the Middle East. The Israeli Government, instead of taking confidence building measures; continues to put impediments and obstacles which increase tensions and acts of violence, as well as preventing the

creation of favorable conditions to move the peace process ahead. Does the continuation in settlement activities accelerate peace? Do the policies of detention, land confiscation, imposition of curfews, closures of areas and restrictions of movement, strengthen the environment of trust and stability? The answer is definitely no whoever thought that this conflict was governed by the principles of the zero sum game, whereas, the security of Israel is realized by usurping the security of the Palestinian people was mistaken. Security must be for everyone and there shall be no security except by implementing the resolution of international legitimacy. This requires serious action from the international community to protect the Palestinian People and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy of the Palestinian People.

Therefore, the State of Kuwait renews its support for the convening of an international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned in the peace process, according to the guidelines of the Madrid Conference represented by Security Council resolution 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, the Road Map endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1515 and the Arab Peace Initiative. The comprehensive, just and lasting peace that the international community seeks to realize must lead to the obtainment of the Palestinian people of all their legitimate political rights by establishing their own independent state over their own land, with

Jerusalem as its capital, and the total withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab lands its occupied in 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights.

Regarding the Lebanese issue, we congratulate the Lebanese Government on its success in putting a decisive end to the Nahr Al Bard sedition, and register our appreciation to the Lebanese army who dealt with this sedition ably and strongly. We hope that this accomplishment would contribute to the return of all the Lebanese parties to the negotiations table, and the resumption of the national dialogue to address the issue of presidential entitlement and the political process according to the constitution.

As we commend the regional and international efforts exerted in order to achieve national reconciliation between all the Lebanese parties, we condemn the political assassinations and the recurrent terrorist bombings that aim to disrupt peace and stability. We renew Kuwait's commitment to stand by Lebanon and support it in a manner that would preserve its security, unity, territorial integrity and political independence.

As for the developments in the Iranian Nuclear dossier, and departing from our firm belief of the necessity to respect the principles of international legitimacy, and the principle of resolving conflicts by peaceful means. The State of Kuwait calls upon the international community to join efforts and continue to work for the purpose of reaching a peaceful solution to this crisis, and to spare the Gulf Region from any crisis that would disrupt its security and stability. We also welcome the latest agreement reached between the

Islamic Republic of Iran and the IAEA, as an important step on the road to dispel fears and doubts surrounding the Iranian Nuclear Program, it is our hope that dialogue and cooperation will resume with total transparency, in as much as this would help to create the conditions to make the Middle East a zone, free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

Here, we demand from the international community to pressure Israel to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty and subject all its nuclear facilities to the safeguards of the IAEA, while we stress the right of all the states in the region to obtain the technology and the know-how for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy within the context allowed by relevant international conventions.

Finally, Mr. President, we renew our commitment to work through the United Nations on fulfilling the hopes and aspiration of our peoples in living together in a world wherein, peace, justice and equality prevail.

Thank you Mr. President.