

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



وَقَدْ دَوْلَةُ الْكُوَيْتِ الدَّائِمِ
لِلدَّيْنِ الْأَمَمِ لِلتَّجْدَةِ
نِيْدِيُورِك

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's a great honour for me representing my country KUWAIT in this high level meeting of the UN general assembly on HIV/AIDS.

At the outset we would like to thank the Secretary General for his report issued in document A/65/797 titled "Uniting for universal access: towards zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths" and to thank the co-facilitators for the outstanding efforts done to negotiate the final declaration that will be adopted at the end of this meeting.

The international community should be pleased with the significant progress achieved so far to fight HIV/AIDS, increased treatment access, saving millions of lives of affected people and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Despite substantial progress achieved so far we have to acknowledge that much remain to be done to reach our objectives as stated in the 2001 declaration of

commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 political declaration.

KUWAIT is committed to fight HIV/AIDS within its commitment to the MDGs and other declaration.

Since the diagnosis of the first HIV case, KUWAIT is aware of the importance of prevention and care of HIV/AIDS cases and hence it formulated a multi-sectorial high level National AIDS Control Committee through a ministerial decree and this committee established the national strategic plan which focused on prevention, education and treatment.

KUWAIT is one of the pioneer countries which has a law for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS comprising the legal context for implementation of the national strategy and ensuring the rights of PLHIV regarding work, education and treatment, and protecting their privacy and confidentiality of their information and fighting stigma and discrimination .

KUWAIT also has a law for premarital medical checkup which included HIV testing as one of the tests done for the couple before marriage for early detection of HIV and prevention of transmission and this law doesn't prevent marriage.

KUWAIT hosted 4 international conferences about HIV/AIDS in the last two decades and a lot of studies and researches were published about HIV/AIDS and its knowledge, attitude and behavior.

To ensure blood safety for recipients, all blood donated in the central blood bank is screened for HIV and other infections.

Treatment for HIV/AIDS is available in KUWAIT and its protocol conforms to the WHO guidelines and available for all infected people regardless of nationality or sex and free of charge.

We have succeeded in preventing mother to child transmission through early treatment for HIV positive mothers and good follow up.

Out of our solidarity and support to the international community efforts to fight infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, T.B and Malaria and helping other nations who suffer from these epidemics, Kuwait voluntarily donates annually five hundred thousand US dollars to the global fund.

We are participating actively with the international organizations, agencies and programs concerning HIV/AIDS such as WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO and ILO.

KUWAIT submitted the first UNGASS report to the UNAIDS in March 2010 reflecting the situation of HIV/AIDS in Kuwait and our vision and plan for future work to update and implement the strategic plan and operational policy.

In conclusion, we believe that this high level meeting represents a unique opportunity to renew our commitments and sustain our efforts to continue fighting HIV/AIDS to achieve our goals and to reach a world free of HIV infections and free of AIDS related deaths.

We are looking forward to share and exchange information and experiences to achieve our goals.

Thank you.