

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Diwan
of
The Prime Minister
Kuwait**



ديوان
سمو رئيس مجلس الوزراء
الكويت

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STATEMENT

BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF

**HIS HIGHNESS
SHEIKH JABER AL-AHMAD AL-JABER AL SABAH
AMIR OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

**HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH SABAH AL- AHMAD AL-JABER AL-SABAH
THE PRIME MINISTER**

BEFORE

**THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2005

Co- Presidents,

Having been honoured by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, The Amir of the State of Kuwait, to represent His Highness at this high-level meeting, I wish first to convey to all the distinguished delegates his greetings, and best wishes for a successful outcome of this important and historic gathering. His Highness shares you the hope that the Final Document the Assembly intends to adopt will prove helpful in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of all the peoples we represent.

Let me take this opportunity to express, in the name of the people and government of the State of Kuwait, to our friends, the people and government of the United States of America, our heartfelt sentiments of solidarity and sympathy during these tragic days of loss and stress in the wake of the catastrophic hurricane that struck three Southern states.

Co-Presidents,

This high-level plenary meeting, which is convened to review and assess the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), coincides with the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Organization. The occasion, which is a cause for celebration, provides us with an opportunity to recommit ourselves from this rostrum our firm confidence in the institution. Here, let me express our thanks to the Secretary-General for his valuable report submitted in preparation for this

summit. We thank all who assisted in preparing the Final Document set for endorsement at the end of the summit.

May I therefore appeal to this august assembly, which is now in session at the highest level of responsibility, to muster its resolve with a view to give a real and tangible meaning to international coordination and cooperation. Our goal is to fill and narrow the gaps in the global system with a view to overcome the problems that impede the realization of the MDGs in all regions of the world, especially in Africa.

Presidents,

Kuwait believes that the development goals the world aspires to attain by the year 2015 are not an impossible mission. Yes, they could be within our reach, especially the eradication of poverty, hunger, treatment of epidemic like HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, as well as improvement of health and education conditions in our societies. Looking around, we do actually see an encouraging number of success stories in many countries.

But meeting our development objectives requires collective commitment to our common responsibilities both as developing and developed nations. It also demands a conviction that economic and social development, openness and political participation are all critical factors in our joint endeavours to tackle the problems and challenges confronting in areas of peace and security as well as the long-standing threats that undermine world stability, like chronic armed conflicts and unresolved regional

problems, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and violation of human rights. It is against this backdrop that Kuwait hopes that security and stability would be established and maintained in Iraq and that a just and comprehensive solution would be achieved for the Palestinian question.

Kuwait welcomes the pledge made by a good number of developed countries to increase their official development assistance (ODA) in order to reach the level of 0.7% of GN as agreed upon by the international community. Indeed, this shall demonstrate a full recognition on their part that development is a crucial requirement to address the problems facing the developing world. Kuwait also wishes to call upon the developed countries to honour their previous commitments in offering aid and to consider substantial reduction in debts owed to them by the developing countries. Furthermore, we invite them to ease tariff restrictions that impede the flow of products from the developing countries to the markets of the developed nations and to set up a global partnership conducive to the creation of a free and balanced international trade and financial regime under the umbrella of the World Trade Organization.

Presidents,

Given Kuwait's keen commitment to meet its obligations under United Nations resolutions and international conventions with a view to accelerate the pace of development, and despite the fact that Kuwait is a developing

country, yet all relevant development indicators show that Kuwait has indeed covered a lot of ground in meeting our commitment to every MDG and ahead of the timetable set by the United Nations.

Since the early days of its membership in 1963, the State of Kuwait honoured its obligations under all international arrangements in order to establish a global partnership for development. To that end, we have established the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development, putting in place a liberal facility to provide assistance to the developing and least-developed countries. Recipients of aid from the Fund now exceed one hundred countries and the aggregate volume of assistance exceeds 12 billion dollars. Thus the ODA provided by Kuwait over the past years came, in actual terms, to almost double the internationally agreed-upon percentage. This does not include the financial assistance by the people of Kuwait through civil society institutions and non-governmental organizations to nations in need.

To this end, Kuwait is gratified to reconfirm its commitment to provide development and financial aid to the developing countries.

Co-Presidents.

Kuwait is also pleased to highlight a recent achievement in gender equality in the political field. For that matter, Kuwaiti women can now exercise their right to vote and to run as candidates for election to the National Assembly Parliament. That was achieved on 16 May this year when the national election law was amended. This landmark achievement is

a cause for pride for it has expanded the prospects for all women in Kuwait to assume leadership positions and to participate directly in the decision-making process. Kuwaiti women have now become more effective partner in the overall national development process.

Co-Presidents,

The progress we have so far made in Kuwait against the MDG benchmarks encourages us to enhance our capabilities to meet challenges of the development goals. We still have some challenges in the environmental sector. This in itself requires a massive rally to develop and deploy the effective mechanisms needed to mitigate and, ideally, reverse the adverse impact on our environment.

Co-Presidents,

In our pursuit of the MDGs, we remain hopeful that the lessons drawn from our past experience will be used in defining our immediate course of action and to live up to the challenges of the moment. In the final analysis, it would be our collective wisdom and determination that will help us forge ahead in shaping a better future, for a life of freedom and dignity, for our future generation, for a life that enjoy the rule of law and stability, a life upheld by the principles of liberty, justice and equality for all human mankind.

Thank you. May peace and mercy from Allah, Our Lord, be upon all of you.