



Speech
of the Representative
of H.H. the Amir of the State of Kuwait

H.E. Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al- Sabah, Minister of Foreign
Affairs
during the high-level meeting on Financing for Development in the era of Covid-
19 and beyond
Thursday 28/5/2020

Your Excellency, Mr. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.
Your Excellency, Mr. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica.
You Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I am pleased to convey the sincere appreciation of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al- Jaber Al-Sabah, for the invitation to hold this crucial meeting in light of the dire circumstances the entire world is going through as a result of the pandemic of the novel Coronavirus, that has negative effects on all social and economic levels, that undoubtedly is changing the pattern in dealing with the current reality.

Kuwait highly appreciates the important role played by Canada, Jamaica and the United Nations in responding to this pandemic by consolidating international efforts to combat COVID-19 . Development, which is the core of our meeting, remains today a challenging issue that needs more of our work to overcome the huge losses the global economy has been subjected to.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The collective responsibility of the United Nations' Member States prompts them to exert more efforts to defeat COVID-19, which has infected over 5.7 million people and claimed the lives of more than 350 thousand people, and from this forum I extend my sincere condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims around the world, and pray for the patients for a speedy recovery.

The State of Kuwait recognized early on the seriousness of COVID-19 and that protecting the lives of everyone who lives in Kuwait, citizens and expatriates alike, requires strict and preemptive measures.

From the first day of the outbreak of this disease, the State of Kuwait has worked to take proactive measures, by applying precautionary and preventive recommendations of the WHO.

The State of Kuwait, with its deep conviction in the necessity of international solidarity and synergy, has lent a helping hand to the world, and placed its responsibility to the international community as a priority, and contributed – so far – with 285.5 million USD, as follows:

- 60 million USD to the World Health Organization to support the efforts made by the organization to address this pandemic, including 50 million USD to support the WHO's activities in a number of the countries most affected.

- An additional 40 million USD to the WHO in support of the international efforts to find a vaccine for COVID-19.

- Also, through the Kuwait Fund for Development, Kuwait re-allocated amounts previously agreed upon in projects funded by the fund and transferred them to cover efforts to combat the pandemic, and responded to the G-20 initiative, currently chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to suspend debt service payments until 2021, as well as rescheduling the 2020 payments over a period of four years.

- Kuwait also allocated 1.6 Million USD to the African Union for the *African Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention* (Africa CDC).

We are keen on providing the necessary financial support to World Health Organization, considering its efforts trying to contain the spread of this pandemic, ensuring the continuation of its work in vulnerable countries, as well as supporting the research on developing a vaccine for this virus.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kuwait realizes the nature of this unprecedented challenge, the repercussions of which will undoubtedly hinder economic growth, which in turn would reflect upon the global political, economic, and social stability.

The next phase requires the international community and its institutions to examine the variables of this emerging global scene and prepare developmental endeavors that fulfil the needs of communities and achieve their aspirations.

I call upon all Member States to cooperate and consolidate their efforts in order to face the aftermath of this pandemic, this requires us to address these challenges and act promptly towards taking necessary steps to adopt sound financial and monetary policies that would promote the recovery of the global economy as soon as possible.

The State of Kuwait, due to the spread of Covid-19 virus around the globe, has initiated procedures to face the severity of this pandemic, in particular its effects on global oil markets, in order to avoid the consequences in the coming phase.

Your Excellencies, ladies and Gentlemen,

The promotion of international cooperation and cohesion in health, economic and social areas, will contribute to return the trust in the future of our international system.

The State of Kuwait affirms the importance of consolidation and synergy between our countries in confronting current and future perils, and substituting conflicts and isolation with integration and unity, in an aim to reach the goals and objectives of human development we strive for.

In conclusion, we pray to Allah Almighty to lift this pandemic, to protect us all from harm and to bless the efforts of those who are sincere everywhere, so we can contain and survive the effects of this pandemic.

I wish you all health and safety and for this gathering all success.

Thank you