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**Welcome speech of His Highness the Prime Minister at the lunch banquet held by His Highness in honour of Her Excellency Dr. Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina**

**January 17<sup>th</sup> , 2011**

**On behalf of H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you, President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, and your distinguished delegation to Kuwait and I also want to extend the warm hospitality of our people.**

**It was an honor for me to visit your beautiful country in July last year and I hope your trip to Kuwait will be equally memorable.**

**I want to particularly thank you for bringing sunshine with you from Argentina which we cherish as we embark on our festivities to celebrate significant anniversaries for Kuwait's independence and liberation.**

**Our countries share many commonalties ranging from being large oil producers to sharing democratic practices and being passionate about soccer.**

**The relations between Kuwait and Argentina have always been cordial and fruitful, particularly in the area of bilateral trade where the interests of our countries align closely.**

**Both of our countries have attractive sectors open to investments from both the government and private sector side.**

**This has probably never been truer in Kuwait, as we continue to implement our ambitious Development Plan which includes the construction of key infrastructure and other social development projects.**

**I encourage Argentinean companies to explore Kuwaiti business partners and distributors for a wide range of products and services.**

**At the same time, I call on Kuwaiti importers, distributors and businessmen to meet with Argentinean companies and discuss business possibilities in diverse areas such as food & beverages, machinery & equipment, tourism, healthcare and software & technology.**

**Our respective Chambers of Commerce & Industry have a history of close cooperation and represent ideal venues to facilitate trade and investment opportunities.**

**Beyond business, I sincerely hope to expand the cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation our countries pledged to each other in several memoranda of**



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**understanding signed during my last visit to your country in 2010. And the agreements signed, yesterday in the presence of H.H the Amir.**

**We also wish to continue the dialogue pertaining to the environment and sustainable development.**

**Again, I welcome you and your esteemed delegation to Kuwait and I am confident that your visit will yield positive outcomes for both of our countries.**