



The address of the representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Prime Minister before the high level meeting ” Millennium Development Goals Summit”

September 20th, 2010

Your Excellencies,

I am honored at the outset, to convey to you the compliments of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait and his best wishes for the success of this important meeting to achieve the results world nations aspire to.

I am also pleased to express on behalf of the government and people of the State of Kuwait our felicitations for chairing the high level meeting to review the MDGs, and we are confident that your wise leadership and good offices will contribute to achieving our aspirations. I also wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, who submitted a comprehensive report on the accomplishments, objectives and causes for the delay in attaining them in the critical document titled" Keeping the promise: a forward- looking Review to Promote and Agreed Action Agenda to Achieve the MDGs by 2015".

Your Excellencies,

During the historical Millennium summit that was held at the onset of the current century, leaders and heads of state set an agenda and a road map to achieve the noble development targets for nations of the world who are in dire need of them. The programme was a beacon that lit the way to achieve those objectives, and five years ago, world leaders met again at the first review conference when optimism prevailed; since indications were promising and statistics showed the extent of responses from countries, particularly the least developed countries and the most effected in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, spreading enthusiasm and determination to exert further effort and adhere to courses for achieving the MDGs.

Our current meeting, which is considered a vital opportunity to review MDGs shows non-encouraging indications, especially those pertaining to the first goal which is related to reducing the global percentage of poverty and starvation to the half. This presents a real challenge facing the international community to combat this epidemic. Instead of falling, the number of poor increased from 800 million in 1990 to over a billion in 2009,. Therefore, we must keep the promise we made, specially the developed countries, in fulfilling their commitments in line with the Monterrey Conference and the Doha Declaration "Financing for Development" by allocating 0.7% of its GDP to assist in official development.



Your Excellencies,

Since our previous conference in 2005, the world has witnessed crises and huge challenges represented in the rise in food stuff prices, fluctuating energy prices ,followed by a strangling financial and economic crisis threatening the global economic system and political and social stability of some countries and suffered by all countries without exception. The impact was heavier on developing countries and the least developed countries more than others in spite of them not being party to this crisis or the causes that lead to it.

While we welcome the steps and policies taken by numerous international and regional organizations to confront this crisis , alleviate its impact and prevent its repetition; there is more we can do to revive the global economy and achieve a fair and balanced international trade system. Other grave challenges facing our world that require unified and collective effort are climate change and its impact on all aspects of life, such as economic and commercial activities and their negative implication on the environment, ecological system and biodiversity. The world also witnessed in the last few years an increase in natural disasters, which are a result of climate change; more violent and destructive, leaving their wake great loss in life and possessions, such as the destructive earthquake that hit Haiti last January, and the floods that devastated Pakistan last month. We hope at our upcoming conference that will be held in Cancun- Mexico next December, to reach a legally binding document defining the steps and policies required, and the responsibilities undertaken by the developed and developing countries to eliminate the effects of climate change and assist developing countries to adapt to its results.

We wish on this account to confirm that the United Nations remains the multi-sided mechanism with the most credibility, legitimacy, and neutrality to discuss the best means of reaching joint and collective solutions to the global risks and challenges.

Your Excellencies,

The State of Kuwait believes that the development goals which the world aspires to achieve by 2015 are attainable, and there are positive indications to support this belief, like the improvement in the numbers attending schools, mother and child healthcare, widening the scope of access to clean water, advancing in the combat of dangerous diseases such as HIV and Aids, Malariya and Tuberculosis. However, the progress and positive results require persistent efforts to maintain and support them , particularly that the challenges the world confronts are numerous, since a large percentage of the world population in certain areas, suffer from poverty, starvation critical diseases, an increase in unemployment and illiteracy, displacement as well as the negative impact of armed conflict and foreign occupation, not to mention the dangers of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, cross border organized crime, drug trafficking, the spread of terrorism and violation of human rights. All these problems epitomize a real threat to security and international peace, obstructing the aspiration for sustainable development.



Your Excellencies,

The State of Kuwait strives, with all that is in its power, to achieve the MDGs and works towards the welfare of the Kuwaiti people as economic and social indicators in the State of Kuwait have exceeded targets and ranked highly on the regional and international levels according to reports from the United Nations Agencies on human development. Efforts are now consolidated and all capabilities are being mobilized to implement the national development plan for the years 2010-2014 estimated at a cost of around \$115 billion dollars, it is an ambitious plan to advance all state sectors, develop infrastructure and raise the level of healthcare services and education, which paves the way for Kuwait become a financial and commercial hub in the region.

In continuing the State of Kuwait's approach to offering assistance to developing countries, the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development remains committed in its efforts to support and finance development projects in more than 100 countries at a total of nearly \$15 billion dollars, reaching an average of double the required percentage offered from state's national income. The State of Kuwait renews its commitment to continue offering development and financial assistance to needy countries and raise their capabilities to fulfill their development needs.

Your Excellencies,

We are aware of the enormity of the international responsibility and the difficulties and challenges hampering many countries from reaching the objectives and the MDGs, but we are confident that the goals are attainable if the political will and total conviction in joint and collective action are present, and commitment to resolutions and promises are undertaken. Let us all act for the welfare and dignity of our peoples, guided by the principles of the United Nations charter and complete respect of international law.

Thank you Your Excellencies.

Wassalamu Alikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.