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**Speech of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-  
Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during  
a ceremony held at the Embassy of the Swiss  
Confederation on the occasion of the  
International Day of the Francophonie**

On 19th of March 2014

Dear Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation,  
Dear Ambassadors of the French Republic, Canada, the  
Kingdom of Belgium and the Republic of Senegal,  
Dear Ambassadors of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Dear the Representative of the International Committee of  
the Red Cross,  
Our Friends Francophones,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you this evening to  
celebrate the International Day of the Francophonie. While  
this day is an occasion that Francophones celebrate in  
order to highlight the cultural diversity of this language, for  
us in Kuwait, this date has become a cultural appointment,  
which allows us to praise the role that French language has  
played in building the contemporary civilization and its big  
contribution to the knowledge industry.

I would like to take this occasion to thank Their  
Excellencies the Ambassadors of Switzerland, France,  
Canada, Belgium and Senegal for hosting this event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In its simplest context, the Francophonie seems to be just  
the fact of speaking French. However, for those whose

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French is the mother tongue, or for those who have chosen the French language for educational or administrative purposes, it is a large door that opens onto the contemporary Western civilization. The French language played a key role in all fields of knowledge: in philosophy, religion, politics, law, literature, arts and sciences. It was in French that theories were written, that ideas and visions were formulated, that novels, plays and dramas were written, that poems, songs and chants were versified, and that constitutions, laws, conventions and treaties were established.

The European Renaissance started to flourish in the seventeenth century, and since that century until the mid-twentieth century, the French language was at the top of the world's languages in the field of diplomatic work. It was one of the most distinguished languages used in high societies and aristocratic world, which turned it into a language that summarizes the history of the Renaissance, as well as the most important cultures in Europe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Francophonie has become a way of thinking, a form of expression and a way of life for people, no matter what their ethnicity, religion or nationality is. It has become the tool of dialogue between different cultures, and celebrating it is focusing on the cultural diversity of today's world and the continuity of the contribution of different languages to the knowledge industry, as well as a role model to other cultures that want to build a modern civilization.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kuwait sought, since the beginning of its modern renaissance in the middle of the last century, to be the host of cultures and arts in this part of the world. It opened its doors to all the cultures of the world to learn and benefit from their content. Therefore, this cultural event that



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celebrates the International Day of Francophonie is an opportunity to benefit from the culture of one of the most important languages in the world. We are very pleased to share with you this occasion, and to communicate to all the Francophones our warm feelings of love and friendship, especially to the ambassadors of Switzerland, France, Canada, Belgium and Senegal, as well as to all their citizens living in the State of Kuwait. We hope that in the coming years, the countries celebrating this occasion would extend this festive atmosphere by organizing a variety of cultural activities in the Kuwaiti cultural environment, because we in Kuwait, we open our hearts, our ears and our eyes to all the creative cultures.

Many Thanks