STATEMENT BY THE
PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DELIVERED BY

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SECOND SECRETARY

BEFORE THE
FIRST COMMITTEE
(DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY)

GENERAL DEBATE

FRIDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2013
Mr. Chairman,

I would like at the outset, to extend to you and to the members of the Bureau, in the name of the delegation of the State of Kuwait our sincere congratulations on your election to conduct the works of the First Committee of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. We are certain that your vast experience and capabilities will have an obvious effect in the successful conduct of the works of the Committee. I also cannot but express our appreciation to your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Indonesia for his great efforts in conducting the works of the previous session.

I also would like to express my country’s delegation support to the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on behalf of the member states in the Arab League, as well as the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

The State of Kuwait reasserts its firm positions on questions relating to disarmament and international security, proceeding from its belief in the fundamental role of the United Nations Organization in achieving its lofty message of maintaining international peace and security, in the shadow of the growing threats resulting from the continued existence of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. The proliferation, possession and the emergence of the dangers of their use, or even the threat of their use, poses an exceptional danger that in the least expectations may go beyond the issue of endangering regional and international stability and peace, to threatening life on the planet Earth.

In this regard, the State of Kuwait proceeded to sign and ratify international treaties and conventions relating to disarmament, such as the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and the Convention of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC), Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons
and on their Destruction (BWC), as well as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), in addition to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocol. Recently, the State of Kuwait also signed and ratified the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and its five Protocols, thus asserting the importance of these conventions and treaties in limiting the dangers of such weapons, and in particular the NPT, which is considered a pillar for multilateral action to achieve disarmament and international security, as well as the need to deal in a balanced manner with its three elements, especially the inalienable right of all states to develop nuclear research and studies and possess nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, according to the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In this domain, the State of Kuwait signed in the past month of September on the Second Technical Cooperation Agreement with the (IAEA) for the period 2014-2019. The main framework of this agreement will focus on cooperation in vital fields, such as the healthcare sector, oil industry, aquifers, environmental studies and radiation safety. The State of Kuwait while being a non producer or manufacturer of arms, has deliberately joined these treaties and conventions, proceeding from its belief that force lies in human element, and in the survival of mankind, rather than its extinction, as well as in channeling financial resources to economic, social, human and political development.

Mr. Chairman,

The proactive regional efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, through the establishment of zones free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in many parts of the world, represented a genuine step towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. However, realizing similar measures in some parts of the world are still faltering.

The Middle East region suffers from chronic challenges that have disrupted the visions of its future based on development, and regional and international cooperation, let alone the disruption of political and economic conditions in the region, resulting from the prevailing environment of lack of confidence, represented by Israel's possession of weapons of mass destruction, its defiance of the resolutions of international legitimacy by not
acceding to the NPT, nor subjecting its facilities to the safeguards system of the IAEA.

In this regard, the State of Kuwait deeply regrets the failure to convene a conference in 2012, seeking to establish a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, in implementation of a resolution adopted by the NPT Review Conference in 2010. We hope that this conference will be convened as soon as possible during the current year, with no further delays, in order to attain tangible results and clear implementation mechanisms, in accordance to a set time schedule, aiming to establish a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Concerning Iran’s nuclear program, my country’s delegation supports the ongoing efforts to peacefully resolve this crisis, in a manner that will preserve the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all the countries in the region, to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the supervision and monitoring of the IAEA. We also call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate fully with international efforts and work on implementing relevant Security Council resolutions, and to cooperate also with the IAEA and implement its resolutions, to escape this crisis, as well as to guarantee the stability and safety of the Arab Gulf region in particular, and the wider Middle East region in general.

Mr. Chairman,

The State of Kuwait welcomes the progress achieved in some of the fields related to disarmament, after the General Assembly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty in the past month of April, this reflected the desire of the international community to limit the destructive negative effects of such arms, and its hoped role of achieving its purposes in maintaining international peace and security. In this regard, the State of Kuwait reiterates its positions as delivered in March 2013 on behalf of the Arab Group during the Second Conference on concluding the Arms Trade Treaty, concerning the need to take into consideration the importance of the Treaty being consistent with the legitimate right of states to self defense, to ensure regional safety, and the right of the peoples subjected to foreign occupation to self determination, in addition to not allowing the occupation of territories of others, and the consequences of that on the right to produce, export, import and transfer conventional weapons.
In conclusion, my country's delegation hopes that the consultations within the Committee will be characterized by transparency and resilience and aim to reach the consensus that will meet the aspirations and hopes of member states to achieve international peace and security.