

*Permanent Mission
of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations
New York*



وَفْدُ دَوْلَةِ الْكُوَيْتِ الدَّائِمِ
لِدَى الْأُمَمِ الْمُتَّحِدَةِ
نِيُورُوكَ

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STATEMENT

BY

**MR. NASER AL HAYEN
COUNSELLOR
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

BEFORE THE

FIRST COMMITTEE

**SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

THURSDAY, 09 OCTOBER 2008

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK**

**In the Name of Allah
The Merciful – The Compassionate**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, it is my pleasure to express to you, in the name of the State of Kuwait, our sincere felicitations on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. We are certain that your wisdom and experience shall contribute to the success of the conduct of its work, to reach the goal we all aspire to. We also would like to congratulate the members of the bureau. My country's delegation wishes to emphasize its full cooperation with you and all the participating delegations to achieve this goal. I am also pleased to register our support for the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia, in the name of the Non-Aligned Movement member states.

Mr. Chairman,

Creating a world totally free from all arsenals of nuclear weapons, is indeed a noble objective, that must be achieved. The international community continues to witness increasing challenges that threaten international peace and security, as well as the credibility of the existing international treaties and conventions. This legacy must be reactivated and supported. However, we still witness a tangible regression in what concerns achieving universality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the corner stone of the disarmament system and the prevention of nuclear proliferation. The failure by some states party to the treaty to follow-up on their commitments as well as their pursuance of selectivity in determining the scope of their obligations represent a serious blow to the credibility of the treaty, as well as undermine all efforts and endeavours, cast doubt on the aims and universality of those treaties and create a gap in the mutual trust between states, which threatens the balance of security as well as regional and international stability.

Mr. Chairman,

The State of Kuwait absolutely believes that the possession of nuclear weapons does not achieve security to any country. On the contrary, the proliferation of these deadly weapons will increase tensions and conflicts between peoples. Therefore, the State of Kuwait views with grave concern

the prevalent international situation, particularly, since the Middle East region continues to face security threats and dangers from the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction. Thirteen years after the resolution concerning the Middle East Region was issued and adopted during the 1995 Review Conference of the NPT, which requires the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, we still find the region a blatant example of the ineffectiveness of the Treaty in achieving security to the parties. We, therefore hope that all the states party to the NPT will comply with their obligations stipulated by the Treaty, the Safeguards Agreement, and work closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency on resolving all the issues concerning whatever doubts or questions that may arise about their programs through negotiations and constructive dialogue. We emphasize the importance of the continuation of the dialogue between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IAEA, as an important step to dispel the fears and doubts surrounding the Iranian Nuclear Program

In this context, we demand that Israel; the only country in the region that did not join the NPT, and the only country in possession of nuclear weapons, in flagrant defiance of the resolutions of international legitimacy; accede immediately to the Treaty, dispose of its nuclear arsenal and subject its nuclear facilities to the safeguard system of the IAEA. Israel's situation in the region constitutes to be a clear infraction in the balance of power and a constant concern for the region. The State of Kuwait demand the international community to work on the cessation of sales of all scientific and technological means, which contribute to strengthening Israeli nuclear weapons, or to any other state that seek to develop its own program to produce weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

The State of Kuwait believes in the important pivotal role of the United Nations in confronting the major challenges, in particular, banning the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The way to address this issue and other relevant issues has been determined clearly in numerous agreements, conventions, resolutions and work programmes that were reached. What is required from the member states now is adherence to their commitments, as well as cooperation and coordination among each other, in implementing these commitments. The core of the issue here is the lack of political will, therefore, endeavours and efforts must continue, and all the necessary measures that are needed for high level political decisions must be taken, in order to activate the measures agreed upon internationally, which are required as a matter of general priority to reinforce our deliberations in this forum towards the following:

- **Total non-selective implementation of the provisions of the NPT, in particular, item 6, concerning disarmament, and item 4 concerning the facilitation of peaceful applications of nuclear technology.**
- **Total adherence to the principles contained in the Final Document of the 10th Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly, as well as the outcome of the Review Conference of the States party to the NPT in 1995, as well as the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, especially what concerns the 13 steps.**
- **Take more effective measures to make sure that the states that had not acceded to the NPT, would do so immediately, in order to reinforce the effectiveness and universality of this Treaty.**
- **Reiterate the inalienable right of states to obtain the needed development, technology and know-how to use nuclear power for peaceful purposes, in the context allowed by the relevant international treaties.**
- **Work closely with the IAEA, to dispel any uncertainty surrounding the nuclear programs through negotiations and constructive dialogue.**
- **Reiterate the importance of facilitating the coming into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and call upon the member states that has not ratified it to do so. In this context, we welcome the signing on the treaty by the brotherly Republic of Iraq and hope that it will ratified promptly.**
- **Support the efforts towards the establishment of an international, legally binding instrument, concerning the illegality of threats to use nuclear weapons, or their use to resolve conflicts, as well as granting non-nuclear states guarantees against the use of nuclear weapons or the threat to use nuclear weapons.**
- **Adhere and seek to achieve the resolution adopted in 1995 to make the Middle East Region free from all kinds of weapons of mass destruction.**
- **Pursue transparency and avoid double standards.**

Mr. Chairman,

The State of Kuwait firmly believes that terrorism is a scourge, that must be uprooted and confronted and crushed by all means through international coordination and cooperation. The State of Kuwait submitted its national report to the U.N. Secretariat in compliance with the provisions of Security Council Resolution 1540, which aims to prevent weapons of mass destruction and the materials need for their manufacture, from reaching terrorist groups.

As to the illegal trade in small weapons and light weapons, the State of Kuwait welcomed the adoption of the U.N. General Assembly of the international instrument which allows states to identify and trace illegal small weapons and light weapons. Despite the fact; that the United Nations Conference to review the progress achieved in implementing the work program regarding small weapons, did not achieve the desired result; it was able to case the light on one of the important issues.

Finally, we hope the consultations of the Committee will be characterized by transparency, comprehensiveness, and aim to reach a consensus in realization of the ambitions and aspirations of the member states to achieve international peace and security.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.