

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



وقد دولة الكويت الدائم
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

24 July 2014

Excellency,

In my capacity as Chair of the Arab Group, I wish to address to Your Excellency, a letter enclosed with remarks to be considered at the outcome of the Open Working Group of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

ABDULAZIZ ALAJMI
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Abdulaziz Alajmi', written over the typed name.

H.E. MR. CSABA KOROSI
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Hungary
To the United Nations
Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on SDGs

24 July 2014

Excellencies,

Once again, the Arab Group, would like, to acknowledge the leadership you have shown in steering the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals throughout its meetings.

However, and with respect to the proceedings of the conclusion of the last meeting on July 19th, 2014, the Arab Group regrets the fact that the request made by Tunisia to take the floor on behalf of the Group has been denied. This prevented the Group from expressing its views on the final version of the proposed set of sustainable development goals before adoption.

The Arab Group would like to refer to its letter addressed to you on 15th July 2014, as well as to the Arab Group's interventions and comments in this regard during the last meeting of the Open Working Group on SDGs, held from 14-19 July 2014, and further regrets that the issue of ending all forms of foreign occupation and colonial domination was not included under goal 16 on "Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for all and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at All Levels", where it naturally belongs.

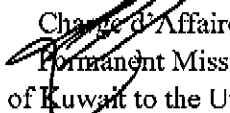
In this respect, the Group went along with the approval of sending the document to the General Assembly, with the understanding that target 16.1 on "Significantly Reducing All Forms of Violence", applies to ending foreign occupation, as it is one of the most extreme forms of violence. The Group's understanding also is that target 16.3 on "Promoting the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels" applies to the situation in the occupied territories in Palestine and other Arab territories, through the full implementation of all the General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC resolutions on ending foreign occupation and colonial domination in the occupied territories in Palestine and other Arab occupied territories, as well as the application of the relevant provisions of international law and international humanitarian law including the four Geneva Conventions to the Arab occupied territories.

This is particularly relevant in view of the current tragic situation in Gaza where hundreds of innocent civilians, mostly women, children and elderly have been living under an illegal blockade for several years, and are currently brutally bombarded and killed by the occupation forces.

The Arab Group requests that this statement be registered as part of the official record and of the report of the Open Working Group.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Abdulaziz AlAjmi



Charge d'Affaires, a.i.
Permanent Mission of the
State of Kuwait to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations
Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on SDGs

H.E. Mr. Csaba Korosi

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations
Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on SDGs

C.C. All permanent and observer Missions to the United Nations