

STATEMENT OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT

BY

DR. JASEM BESHARAH
DIRECTOR GENERAL, ENVIROMENT PUBLIC AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (CSD-14)

ON THE

*Event for the review of the implementation of the Mauritius
Strategy to pursue the application of the programme of action for
the sustainable development in the small island developing states*

MONDAY, 8 MAY 2006

- The State of Kuwait attaches great importance to these meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development given their sensitivity and complexity.
- The Kuwaiti people has always realized *“due to its geographical and historic reality”* the importance of an effective integration and partnership in order to achieve growth and prosperity. The Kuwaiti citizen has always sought to assist the developing peoples in the world.
- The State of Kuwait reiterates its commitment to implement the outcome of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg plan of action. It is also committed to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences, including the Mauritius Conference.
- Kuwait reiterates its commitment to sound policies and good governance on all levels, as well as to the rule of law and fight against corruption, the strengthening of international trade as being an incentive for sustainable development. Kuwait looks favorably to the conditions of the developing countries with the perspective of strengthening their capabilities, expanding their trade, developing their resources and enabling them to participate effectively in the 2006 Doha Round.
- The State of Kuwait has supported and participated effectively in the international efforts for assisting in the growth of developing countries through direct bilateral grants to many development projects carried out in those countries by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development which amounted to \$12 billion and distributed among 101 countries, especially the least developed countries, including the small island developing states. Kuwait’s support for small islands states has focused on their infrastructure, and included islands from Samoa in the east to Belize in the west, and passing through the Maldives, Cape Verde, Saint Lucia and Cuba. Kuwait provided many grants through regional and international institutions, associations and funds. The total amount of those grants exceeded 1.3% of Kuwait’s GNP during the period from 1990 to 2003, thus surpassing many developed countries which Kuwait calls upon to abide by their pledge

to allocate 0.7% of their GNP's as official development assistance (ODA) to the developing countries, as well as 0.15 to 0.2 of their GNP's to the least developed countries in accordance with schedules internationally agreed upon.

- Kuwait expresses its utmost interest in protecting the environment. Kuwait is very concerned about the climate change phenomenon and the many factors which could affect it. Accordingly, Kuwait acted simultaneously on both levels, domestic as well as foreign, and with the assistance of scientific research centers which are qualified to study this issue and its effects.
- Kuwait is aware of the necessity to take more measures for mobilizing financial resources to explore and transfer environmentally sound technology in order to achieve a greater diversification in the energy sources, especially if they are renewable. Kuwait *"believes that those sources still require more study to confirm their adequate efficiency and safety, as well as the evaluation of their effects in all ecological and biological systems, and their economic feasibility."* Kuwait also believes in cleaner fossil fuel advanced technologies which require greater focus, as being the main source of energy for the next thirty years, at least, and because of their higher efficiency and greater economic feasibility. They constitute not less than 80% of the total energy world consumption. Therefore, it is necessary to find more efficient and better fossil fuel technologies to ensure the continuity and marketing of all the products and types of this energy source, as well as their availability to all countries, and the application of new techniques for the treatment of gas emissions emanating from the use of fossil fuel, like the isolation and storage of carbon which was tackled by the Conference on Climate Change held in Montreal last year.
- In this context, the State of Kuwait has allocated a budget of approximately US\$100 million to support environment protection research works and the development of a technology which aims at improving efficiency in energy production and use, especially fossil fuel, as provided by article (20) of the Johannesburg Plan of Action and its subsequent items, with a view to ensure better economic, social and environmental living conditions.
- It is noteworthy that the Kuwaiti private sector has taken the initiative to carry out a pilot project in Kuwait for the carbon dioxide isolation, storage and fixation.