

Kuwait

**Statement of the State of Kuwait
at the Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety**

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In the name of God the merciful,

Honorable co-presidents

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to the government of Japan for hosting and sponsoring the Second Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in co-sponsorship with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and I hope that this meeting achieves its intended goals.

I also wish to express the interest of the State of Kuwait and its support for the efforts aimed at strengthening both nuclear and environmental safety which is one of the human rights.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite all the efforts exerted to prevent nuclear accidents, we continue to witness different types of these accidents which are becoming global in the way they are addressed and in the public's response to them. And it is not strange to say that what we are witnessing today in terms of progress in the safe operation of nuclear facilities is only the fruit of the lessons that have been learned from these accidents, among which, the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in 1979, and the one at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986. This has motivated the international community to study the effects of these tragedies and the ways to deal with them during several events, meetings and international conferences, including today's meeting which follows the First Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety convened in June 2011.

We are gathered here today under a framework of transparency to follow up on the implementation of the Action Plan, particularly, in relation to the measures to protect people and the environment from ionizing radiation.

In this regard, the State of Kuwait has followed up on the accident at Fukushima Nuclear Power Station since its first hours through the information provided by the Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) of the IAEA, and through the CTBTO and the National Radiation Monitoring Laboratories which detected

small traces of radioactive materials in air filters and samples of fallout particles on March 23, 2011 that do not pose any risk on human health. Accordingly, the State of Kuwait, and through the concerned entities, implemented the necessary measures such as screening imported Japanese products for nuclear pollution.

In recent years, the State of Kuwait has launched a study into the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. However, those plans have been halted after considering national priorities, and since then, the State of Kuwait has been focusing on the implementation of a regional project at the GCC level aiming at using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes among the GCC Member States. The State of Kuwait took the initiative to channel the efforts of the GCC members towards that purpose through a proposal it presented during the 2006 GCC Gulf Summit held in Riyadh, and was adopted and is being implemented by a Gulf working team consisting of experts from the six members of the GCC. The team has prepared elaborated studies and the necessary framework, legislation and infrastructure for the common project.

Furthermore, the GCC countries have been working on a joint emergency plan to prevent and respond to nuclear accidents by establishing a regional center and developing human resources in collaboration with the IAEA.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We should admit that the accident at Fukushima Nuclear Power Station has undermined the public's confidence in the safety of nuclear reactors, especially in the countries that have started setting up projects to build nuclear power plants, and has established a public opinion calling for the development of alternative sources of energy.

In this regard, the State of Kuwait reiterates the importance of commitment to the principles stated in the Action Plan adopted by the IAEA, such as reviewing the safety measures for the existing nuclear power plants, strengthening the safety of nuclear power plants, emphasizing the leading role of the IAEA in this domain, promoting transparency in providing information about radiation levels and sharing them with the IAEA, in addition to considering the review of several legislations in order to promote the implementation of these principles.

In conclusion, we hope that this meeting and its working sessions draw practical recommendations and follow up on their implementation after being adopted by the IAEA so that the ways of addressing the Fukushima Crisis and its implications become a model in dealing with similar accidents. We also share IAEA

Director General Mr. Amano's hope that this accident marks a turning point in international relations, in the same way the tragedies of Nagasaki and Hiroshima became a turning point for peace.

On behalf of the leaders and Government of the State of Kuwait and its people who aspire for a safe environment, I express my deepest gratitude for this gathering and to those in charge of organizing our conference, and I hope that it will achieve its intended goals and strengthens the international relations.

Thank you