

KUWAIT STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait on Thursday stressed the importance of the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May, 2016. "The summit represents a historic moment for the donors to affirm commitment to saving



NEW YORK: First Secretary of Kuwait mission to the UN Sabah Nasser Al-Sabah speaks at a debate during the 70th session of the UN General Assembly. —KUNA

lives, alleviate poverty and protect the dignity of people hit by natural or man-made disasters," First Secretary of Kuwait mission to the UN Sabah Nasser Al-Sabah said.

He made the comments in a speech to a debate during the 70th session of the UN General Assembly on "strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance."

Sabah voiced concern over the safety of the UN aid workers in conflict zones, citing reports of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in this regard. He urged scaling up the efforts to of the UN aid agencies to help the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, meet their urgent needs and speed up the reconstruction process. On behalf of Kuwait, Sabah reiterated the call for establishing a fair, permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and forcing Israel, the occupying power, to comply with the relevant UN resolutions and acknowledge the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people foremost among which is the right to establish their independent state within the pre-June, 1967, borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Kuwait, as member of the Advisory Commission of the UNRWA, is keen on supporting the activities of the UN agency and contributed \$32 million in aid in response to the urgent appeals issued by the agency, he went on.

He added that Kuwait spares no effort in supporting the UN-led relief effort worldwide out of deep belief in humanitarian action and the principles of the UN Charter, recalling the UN honoring of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as humanitarian leader and of Kuwait as humanitarian center. —KUNA



KUWAIT: MP Dr Ouda Al-Rowaie (right) attends the permanent committee for political affairs' session, held as part of the 8th Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA). —KUNA

KUWAIT TO CONTINUE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM: MP

KUWAIT: Kuwait will continue exerting efforts in the fight against terrorism and drying up origins of its resources, said a member of a Kuwaiti delegation currently on a mission in Cambodia. MP Dr Ouda Al-Rowaie affirmed that Kuwait had joined more than 11 international treaties for combating terrorism, also noting the National Constitution stipulates the state abidance by accords with other states and organizations.

He was addressing the permanent committee for political affairs' session, held as part of the 8th Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), hosted by Cambodia. Excerpts of his address were given to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) yesterday.

Elaborating on the national anti-terrorism efforts, he noted the Central Bank of Kuwait's issuance of the Law 106/2013, regarding money-laundering and funding terrorism and the Cabinet Resolution 5/2014 concerning implementation of UN resolutions that fall under Chapter VII related to terrorism and its funding.

Shifting to democracy, he mentioned that the National Constitution includes five chapters and 182 provisions defining the relationship between the ruler and the ruled in terms of duties and rights, drawing up a way of life for the Kuwaitis based on social justice, equal opportunities and freedoms.

However, he cautioned that "absolute freedom" can be detrimental and may lead to chaos, noting that freedoms must not be measured equally for all nations without taking into consideration diverse cultures, customs and civilizations. The 8th Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) kicked off Wednesday in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. The three-day conference aims to "promote peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia" by bringing together parliamentary presidents and representatives of 22 countries to discuss and exchange views on current issues of politics, economics, finance and social affairs.

Pledging conferences

Meanwhile, MP Madi Al-Hajri said that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was the first to sense sufferings of the Syrian refugees. Thus, Kuwait hosted the First, Second and Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria under the umbrella of the UN that honored His Highness the Amir as a 'Humanitarian Leader,' he added.

Hajri's statement was made in the address of the Kuwaiti parliamentary group at a meeting for the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of the APA. The three conferences managed to raise \$7.7 billion to support the humanitarian situation in Syria, he said.

Kuwait's contributions were extended to humanitarian operations carried out by the UN organizations. These include \$210 million that went to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Recently, the country has offered \$121 million to the UNHCR operations in Syria, he noted. Hajri also pointed to of Kuwait's strong belief in the importance of preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage, pointing to the role of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL). In addition, the country issued in 1960 the first law on antiquities in the Gulf area, to regulate excavations and protect monuments, in a bid to preserve the country's cultural heritage.

Since 2010, the world has been engulfed by a whirlpool of tensions, and ethnic and religious conflicts, besides regional wars that produced racism and hatred, Hajri said. He also denounced all acts of violence and terrorism against innocent people. Hajri denounced the attempts to destroy or steal nations' antiquities and cultural heritage. He stressed that Muslim countries managed through 1,400 years to preserve antiquities and heritage of various cultures. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Riders Motorcycle Club visited the American Hospital recently as part of its 'discover your country' campaign. —KUNA