

# KUWAIT SUPPORTS FAO EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE HUNGER, POVERTY: JABRI

## ACTIVATING GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO ERADICATING HUNGER

**ROME:** Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri stressed yesterday Kuwait's firm support to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and its efforts to eliminate hunger and poverty in the world.

Jabri said, during the 40th Session of the 40th Conference in Rome, that Kuwait renewed its confidence

Representative of Kuwait announced at this conference Kuwait's "preliminary approval" of two projects of the partnership program between Kuwait and the organization, mainly DNA project for agriculture and the project of agricultural waste recycling. "Climate change, agriculture and food security" conference theme getting great interest from Kuwait, which is seriously affected by climate change, especially fisheries, due to the high temperature of our regional waters and environmental pollution, he said.

Despite the progress made in the food and agricultural sectors, the sector still need modern technical support from FAO and member countries with expertise, especially in the development of Kuwait water and fisheries resources and water treatment for agricultural and human purposes," he said.

The Kuwaiti delegation, headed by Minister Jabri, will participate in the Ministerial Conference on scarcity of water in the near East and North Africa region, in the presence of Ambassador Sheikh Ali Al-Khalid Al-Sabah, the General Director of the General Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs Faisal Al-Hasawi, and Permanent Representative to FAO Youssef Juhail.

### Global commitment

The 40th Session of the FAO Conference on Monday called for the activation of global commitments to eradicating hunger, one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In an inaugural speech, Italy's Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni said that reaching "zero hunger" determined by the international community as a new ambitious goal for the 2030 agenda of

the sustainable development is considered a main condition for equality and justice.

He called for "renewed and extraordinary efforts" particularly pointing to the influx of migrants into the European Union (EU) country's shores. Gentiloni affirmed that peace is also a goal and a condition to achieve the 17 SDGs to eradicate hunger in the world as there is a close relationship between conflicts and the growing malnutrition across the globe. He stated that conflict has caused 10 food crises out of 13 in different regions. He emphasized Italy's support for FAO's efforts alongside the World Food Program (WFP) and the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), appealing to the rest of Europe to share Italy's burdens because of mass immigration. In a letter by Pope Francis read by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Pope said he was following international activity and wanted to cooperate to direct it towards a real eradication of hunger and malnutrition, not just simple development or theoretical goals. The Pope stressed the importance of recognition that all people have the right to get enough food.

Pope Francis told FAO conference that the international community should acknowledge hunger and malnutrition are not "natural or structural phenomena." He said "we are dealing with a complex mechanism that mainly burdens the most vulnerable, who are not only excluded from the processes of production, but frequently obliged to leave their lands in search of refuge and hope." He noted that wars, acts of terrorism and forced displacement are not the result of determinism.

### Peace is key

Meanwhile, FAO's Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva said "I wish I could announce here today some good news regarding the global fight against hunger but, unfortunately, it is not the case. "To save lives, we have to save their livelihoods. We cannot save people and put them in camps," he added.

He pointed out that "peace is of course the key to ending these crises. But we cannot wait for peace to take action. There is much we can do to fight hunger during conflicts and protracted crises." He said that FAO has identified 19 countries facing severe food crises due to a combination of conflict and climate change including South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen where nearly 20 million are affected.

He added this year's setback in the fight against hunger hardly came as a surprise, with almost 20 million people facing starvation because of fighting and drought in South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. He said strong political commitments to eradicating hunger are essential but not sufficient, adding that hunger could only be defeated if states fulfill their commitments on both national and local levels.

He specified FAO's top priorities for the next two years in promoting sustainable agriculture, reducing the impacts of climate change, keeping pace with these changes, reducing poverty, addressing water scarcity and migration and supporting rural livelihoods affected by conflict as well as and working constantly on food and fisheries. The event, which is held every two years, runs until July 8. Up to 1100 representatives from member states are taking part in the conference. —KUNA



**Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri**

in the international organization and its goals in fighting poverty and hunger. Kuwait also supported the organization's policies towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development. Jabri also expressed hope to develop Kuwait's cooperation with FAO, through signing an imminent partnership agreement for agricultural development, which will contribute to enhancing Kuwait's food and nutrition security and develop the technical capabilities of human and natural resources.



**CAIRO:** Kuwaiti lawmaker Khaled Al-Otaibi (center) attends the Arab Parliament's financial and economic committee meeting. —KUNA



**Member of Kuwait's National Assembly and Arab Parliament Ali Al-Deqbasi (center) attends the meeting of the Arab Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Political and National Security Committee.**

## MP SAYS HURDLES IN GREATER ARAB FREE TRADE AREA NEED TO CLEAR

### CALLS FOR BEEFING UP JOINT ARAB ACTION

**CAIRO:** It is imperative to eliminate all obstacles that could encumber business in the 'Greater Arab Free Trade Area' (GAFTA), a Kuwaiti MP said yesterday. MP Khaled Al-Otaibi, a member of the Arab Parliament's Economic and Financial Committee, said that decisions made during previous Arab development summits have yet to come to fruition, which represents a shortcoming. He pointed out that structural flaws in Arab production has stalled trade development, adding that the just-concluded meeting of the committee yielded its agenda for the upcoming term.

Otaibi also added that the meeting tackled various issues to be referred to the Arab Parliament's forthcoming session today. The Arab Parliament has formed various ad hoc committees dealing with foreign, political, economic and legal affairs, in addition to other issues.

### Arab aspirations

On Monday, Otaibi affirmed the necessity of unifying Arab visions to remove obstacles in order to meet aspirations of Arab nations. Speaking on the sidelines of the Arab Parliament's financial and economic committee meeting, Otaibi said there are some economic, legal and legislative obstacles that should be removed.

Such topics were discussed by the conferees during the meeting, he added. The

meeting touched upon the proposals of the Arab investment projects as well as reviewed a report on the latest developments pertaining to GAFTA and ways to accelerate the implementation of its executive program, he noted.

### Joint action

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti MP and Arab Parliament member Ali Al-Deqbasi called for stepping up Arab joint action to counter challenges and threats to Arab security. In a statement on the sidelines of a meeting of the Arab Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Political and National Security Committee, Deqbasi noted that the committee has discussed boosting Arab cooperation to live up to Arab people's expectations and to overcome the impending threats to the region as well as to fight poverty, hungry and diseases. He pointed out that the members have also tackled efforts to close Arab ranks and to iron out differences.

Deqbasi voiced concerns about the current situation in the Arab region, stressing the need for doubling efforts to ease tension and unite Arab countries. In the meantime, he also lauded Kuwait activism and cooperation with the international parliamentary organizations to stand up to the Israeli violations of international law and illegal practices against Palestinian people and territories. —KUNA



**ANKARA:** The Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation meets with chairman of the Turkish-Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship committee Mekaël Arsalan. —KUNA Photos



**Members of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation visit the main chamber of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.**



**Members of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation pose for a group photo with chairman of the Turkish-Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship committee Mekaël Arsalan and Turkish officials.**

## KUWAITI MP COMMENDS DEEP TIES WITH TURKEY

**ANKARA:** Chairman of Kuwait-Turkey Parliamentary Friendship committee, MP Jamaan Al-Harbash underlined Monday the deep relations between Turkey and Kuwait and their people. Harbash, in a meeting with chairman of the Turkish-Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship committee Mekaël Arsalan, recalled Turkey's support for Kuwait's just causes during the 1990 Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. He also noted Kuwait's support for the democratically-elected government of Turkey during last July's failed coup attempt.

Arsalan said Kuwait was playing 'strategic' roles in the region, and contributed to security and stability of the area. He called on parliamentarians in the two countries to confront common threats, as well as promote the bilateral relations and cooperation. Arsalan said exchange of visits by leaders of Turkey and Kuwait would boost investment and economic cooperation. Harbash is leading a delegation that includes MPs Adel Al-Damkhi, Abdullah Al-Enezi and Nayef Al-Ajmi. —KUNA

## KUNA'S SENIOR OFFICIAL VISITS PARIS OFFICE

**PARIS:** Kuwait News Agency's (KUNA) Deputy Director General for Administrative and Financial Affairs and Communications Abdulhamid Malak yesterday visited the agency's office in Paris. KUNA's senior official and his accompanying delegation inspected the workflow in the office in order to increase its efficiency and speed in covering news and events. Malak stressed the important role made by the office in Paris in covering daily events in

France, calling for commitment to criteria of professionalism, transparency and credibility. Malak's accompanying delegation includes Deputy Chief-Editor for Arabic News Bulletin Essam Al-Ghanim, Deputy Chief-Editor for Local News Bulletin Talal Al-Kandari, Deputy Chief-Editor for Communications and Information Technology Adel Al-Sammak and Head of the Information and Research Department Khalda Al-Nofal. —KUNA



**PARIS:** KUNA's Deputy Director General for Administrative and Financial Affairs and Communications Abdulhamid Malak and his accompanying delegation visit the agency's office in Paris. —KUNA

