

Local

Kuwait calls for permanent Arab representation in UN Security Council

Reform should ensure geographical, regional groups fairly represented



NEW YORK: Kuwait's UN permanent representative Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi speaks on behalf of the Arab Group before the UN General Assembly. — KUNA

NEW YORK: Kuwait's UN permanent representative Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi affirmed that the Arab League was demanding a permanent Arab representation in the Security Council. This came in Otaibi's speech on behalf of the Arab Group before the UN General Assembly during the discussion of the "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council."

Otaibi said that the UN's three major bodies need real and comprehensive reforms, especially in light of the current difficult situation the world is going through due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. This matter was stated in the declaration of the General Assembly on the UN 75th anniversary and the report of the UN Secretary-General (The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), he added.

He also stressed that the Arab Group reiterates that the governmental negotiations within the framework of the General Assembly are the only forum to reach an agreement on expanding

and reforming the Security Council in accordance with General Assembly resolution 557/62. Moreover, he noted that the main objective of the reform and expansion of the Security Council is to ensure that all geographical and regional groups are fairly and appropriately represented in the membership of the expanded council.

Otaibi stressed that the Arab group, in light of its political, cultural and heritage specificity, deserves, as a separate group, to be represented in the expanded Security Council. He stated that the Arab Group represents more than 400 million people and includes 22 countries in its membership, representing about 12 percent of the general membership of the UN. Most of the council's agenda include topics related to the Arab

region, which calls for a fair and proportionate Arab representation in the expanded Security Council. Otaibi said that the Arab Group would continue consultations with all other negotiating groups with the aim of reaching a real and comprehensive reform of the Security Council. — KUNA



Group represents more than 400 million people

Deputy FM heads Kuwait's delegation in UNRWA's meeting

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhafiri headed Kuwait's delegation yesterday in UNRWA's international ministerial conference, dubbed "preserving rights and human development for Palestinian refugees", taking place virtually. Ambassador Dhafiri gave a speech in which he commended UNRWA's significant role in aiding Palestinian refugees and affirmed Kuwait's ongoing

support for UNRWA and all the medical, social and educational services it provides for approximately 5.7 million Palestinian refugees. He also stressed the necessity of continuous support from the international community so that the agency can carry on its humanitarian role.

Dhafiri also highlighted the significance of UNRWA's strategic plans for the years 2023-2028 as it prioritized updating operations, incorporating digitalization, committing to United Nations principles and objective standards, and working to attain a sustainable financial base. Participating in the meeting are Foreign Minister Assistant for the office of the deputy, Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, and Foreign Minister Assistant for international organizations Counselor Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhafiri attends UNRWA's international ministerial virtual conference. — KUNA

Kuwait reiterates importance of education for all

PARIS: Kuwait on Monday affirmed its belief in protecting right to education for all through participation, and support to the "Global Education Coalition" launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This came in a speech delivered by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UNESCO Dr Adam Al-Mulla at the 41st UNESCO conference.

Mulla conveyed greeting and appreciation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the organization for its efforts to serve the world. Kuwait believes in different challenges and opportunities amongst countries that require a special support to meet their needs, he said. He referred that Kuwait grants Al-Sumait Prize for African Development every year as part of the country's concern about the continent.

The prize aims at highlighting successful

achievements in education, food security and health on one hand, and contributing to boosting economic and social development, and the development of human resources as well as infrastructure in the African continent on the other. On the communication and information sector, Mulla voiced Kuwait's pride for awarding the UNESCO-Amir Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, which rewards distinguished contributions in integrating persons with disabilities into the society and improving their lives.

Concerning the essential role played by artificial intelligence in directing the future, Mulla emphasized that Kuwait seeks to boost cooperation and scientific progress, noting that the country appreciates efforts by Director-General and all countries that participated with its experts and representatives to find a consensual formula to the recommendations of the ethics of artificial intelligence. Kuwait chaired the meeting of the international government experts on the recommendations of artificial intelligence held at the organization in April and May.

Mulla urged all member states for close cooperation to achieve sustainable achievement. Kuwait is looking forward to being a member of the



UNESCO Expectative Board for 2021-2025 and to working with member states to push ahead with development towards building peace in human minds. The 41st conference kicked off on Monday and will run over two weeks to specify priorities for the next years. — KUNA

Libya strongman Haftar enters...

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His candidacy marks the latest stage in Haftar's dramatic trajectory from exile in the United States to becoming one of the most controversial figures in Libya's 10-year conflict. From 2014, he led a three-year battle against jihadists in Benghazi, establishing himself as the dominant power in the country's east. In April 2019, backed by Russia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, he launched an offensive on Tripoli on the pretext of rooting out militant groups.

The year-long battle left the outskirts of the capital in ruins and Libya more divided than ever. But a United Nations-brokered ceasefire in October last year paved the way for a peace process leading to elections set for Dec 24. In September, Haftar provisionally quit his military position in line with a controversial electoral law to allow him to run for president.

Yesterday, wearing a formal suit and tie instead of his military uniform, he said the vote is "the only way to pull Libya out of chaos". Libya's electoral process, already beset by disputes over who can stand and the legal basis for the polls, looks as shaky as ever just six weeks ahead of the vote. On Monday evening, the head of the UN-backed unity government Abdulhamid Dbeibah said the process was facing "huge" problems given the lack of laws and consensus over a constitutional framework for the vote.

Last week, Haftar's forces said 300 mercenaries fighting on his side would leave Libya at the request of France in a "unilateral gesture", expecting nothing in return from the government in Tripoli. But pro-Haftar forces remain in control of much of eastern and southern Libya, and some analysts have voiced skepticism over the chances of a free and fair vote.

Analyst Khaled Al-Montasir said Haftar had "imposed himself on the political scene, but he will remain a controversial figure rejected by many in western and southern Libya". "Moreover, there's no guarantee that any election process that brings him to power will be respected," he said. — AFP

"Oncotarget". In separate tests conducted by the firm, the worms correctly identified all 22 urine samples from pancreatic cancer patients, including people with early stages of the disease.

Tim Edwards, a senior lecturer in psychology at the University of Waikato in New Zealand, who has studied dogs' ability to detect lung cancer, said using the worms appeared "promising". Edwards, who is not affiliated with the Japanese firm, noted that unlike dogs, the worms needed no training to sniff out cancer in patients.

Daniel Kolarich, an associate professor at the Australian Centre for Cancer Glycomics, pointed out that the "unconventional" nature of the method could be "one reason why this has not received more attention". "Personally, I think we need to pursue every sensible strategy to develop and identify tests that can help us identify cancer as early as possible," he told AFP. But he cautioned that new diagnostics must "have superior specificity and sensitivity to ensure that cancer is detected as early as possible and that false-positive cancer diagnoses can be avoided". — AFP

Japan firm uses worms to sniff...

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And if the worms raise the alarm, the patient would then be referred to a doctor for further testing, he said. He is hopeful it could help boost cancer detection rates in Japan, which like many countries has seen screening rates drop during the pandemic as people avoided medical visits. Even before the pandemic, Japanese patients showed up for cancer screenings less often than many of their peers in developed countries, according to OECD data.

"This is a game-changer... People need to change the way they think about cancer screening," said Eric di Luccio, head of the firm's research center. Hirotsu and Osaka University detailed C. elegans' cancer-detecting skills in a joint study published earlier this year in the peer-reviewed journal

Russia destroys satellite with...

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Stoltenberg yesterday described the test as a "reckless" and "concerning" act. "It demonstrates that Russia is now developing new weapon systems that can shoot down satellites," he said at a meeting with EU defense ministers.

Yesterday, French Defense Minister Florence Parly on Twitter lashed out at "space vandals" who were producing dangerous amounts of debris. The satellite was a Soviet signals intelligence satellite that has been defunct for several decades.

The Russian military said it was carrying out planned activities to strengthen its defense capabilities but denied that the test was dangerous. "The United States knows for certain that the resulting fragments, in terms of test time and orbital parameters, did not and will not pose a threat to orbital stations, spacecraft and space activities," it said.

The confirmation of the US claims came moments after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had denied that Moscow had endangered the ISS. "To declare that the Russian Federation creates risks for the peaceful use of space is, at the very least, hypocrisy," Lavrov told a press conference in Moscow, adding that "there are no facts" behind the claims.

NASA said the crew aboard the orbital outpost - currently four Americans, a German and two Russians - were woken up and forced to take shelter in their return

ships. Earlier yesterday, Russia's Roscosmos space agency said its "automated warning system for dangerous situations" was continuing "to monitor the situation in order to prevent and counter all possible threats to the safety of the International Space Station and its crew".

"For us, the main priority has been and remains to ensure the unconditional safety of the crew," Roscosmos said in a statement. Russian state news agencies reported that Roscosmos chief Dmitry Rogozin was expected to meet NASA officials on Tuesday. NASA chief Bill Nelson said on Monday he was "outraged" by the "irresponsible and destabilizing action".

Yury Shvitytkin, deputy chairman of the Russian lower house of parliament's defence committee, denied Russia was militarizing space. "We have been and are against the militarization of space," Interfax news agency quoted him as saying. But Russian military analyst Pavel Felgenhauer told AFP it had "long been known that we have anti-missile and anti-space weapons and that we are deploying them".

Anti-satellite weapons (ASATs) are high-tech missiles possessed by only a handful of nations. India was the last to carry out a test on a target in 2019, an incident criticized by the US and others after hundreds of pieces of "space junk" were created. The US shot down a satellite in 2008 in response to China demonstrating a similar knockout in 2007.

Last year, Britain and the US accused Russia of testing a "nesting doll" satellite that opened up and released a smaller craft to stalk an American satellite. Despite the tension, the US and Russia have maintained strong space ties since the end of the Cold War, cooperating closely on the ISS, which they built together. — AFP

Crown Prince recalls late...

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Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to HH the Crown Prince. According to the order, HH Sheikh Mishal, was also entrusted to propose legislation, sign and issue them, after their

approval by the National Assembly. He was also assigned to sign Amiri decrees and issue them, declare martial law, conclude international treaties, the Amir's powers regarding the National Assembly and swearing in the prime minister and ministers. HH Sheikh Mishal's first task is expected to be to name the next prime minister after HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah submitted his resignation last week. The Cabinet was asked to continue as a caretaker government. The Crown Prince could reappoint Sheikh Sabah as the new prime minister or name a new premier.