

## Local

# Kuwait urges more transparent, efficient UN Security Council

## Kuwait voices alarm at ambiguous destiny of the missing in Syria

**NEW YORK/GENEVA:** The state of Kuwait renewed its support to a more transparent, accountable and efficient UN Security Council, affirming its full preparedness to support such efforts. This came in a speech delivered by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations' Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi to the council's open session regarding UNSC's work mechanisms.

Otaibi mentioned that the open discussion was held just as the world begins to recover from ramifi-

stipulating that if power of veto was used, a UN general assembly discussion will take place within 10 days of the vote, Ambassador Otaibi mentioned. He further affirmed importance of "penholder" status, and necessity of guaranteeing fair distribution of responsibilities between member states, to ensure fair and active participation in the decision-making process.

Ambassador Otaibi proposed allowing newly elected members to attend and observe Security Council meetings prior to assuming office in five months, to allow for better preparation. To boost transparency, Otaibi suggested including unofficial council meetings in the UN paper. Furthermore, he hailed the UNSC's efforts in providing an annual report, while also encouraging members to make content of reports even more detailed. Otaibi pointed out that tangible change can only be achieved through cooperation and real desire to make change happen.

### Missing people

Separately, Kuwait on Wednesday expressed deep concern at the plight of missing people due to the conflict in Syria. According to the relevant international law and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2474, parties of the armed strife are primarily responsible for taking all necessary measures to determine destiny of unaccounted for persons, due to hostilities, said the Permanent Representative at the UN and International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim.

Ambassador Ghunaim was addressing the UN Human Rights Council as part of the interactive dialogue with the independent fact-finding commission in Syria. The senior Kuwaiti diplomat noted that the commission reported that there had been wide-scale cases of coercive disappearance during the past decade in Syria, where tens of thousands of men, women and children had been held and



**NEW YORK:** Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations' Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi speaks to the council's open session regarding UNSC's work mechanisms. — KUNA

remained unaccounted for. In this respect, The State of Kuwait calls on the parties to stop disappearance of persons due to the armed conflict, immediately release all those deprived of their freedom and dedicate special attention to missing children. Moreover, it robustly decries all human rights breaches suffered by the brotherly Syrian people and calls for ending the conflict through a just and comprehensive settlement.

Ambassador Ghunaim expressed deep concern at ongoing and explicit violations of the international humanitarian law and the human rights laws by all parties, namely the continuing attacks on innocent

civilians, where some cases are tantamount to crimes against humanity and war crimes. Furthermore, the State of Kuwait urges the parties in Syria to devote attention to humanitarian issues, such as allowing safe and sustainable delivery of aid and medics to evacuate victims unharmed, abstaining from besieging residential regions or using starvation as a war tool. Ghunaim affirmed support for the appeal that had been made by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres for silencing the guns worldwide for allowing delivery of relief assistance to those in need and create the atmosphere for resolving conflicts diplomatically. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Winners of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award and the Award's organizers pose for a group picture.

International Book Fair for three consecutive years.

The pictures of the award's 486 volunteers from 21 countries were also showcased at the exhibition. The Informatics Award relied heavily on the efforts of local and regional volunteers who contributed in substantially making Kuwait and region stronger in the digital industry.

Last Monday's event further celebrated the winners of the 20th Edition of Informatics Award which are:

### The Kingdom of Bahrain

- The General Directorate of Traffic of the Ministry of Interior for its project Traffic Services, represented by Director General of Traffic, Brigadier General Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa.

- The Ministry of Education for its project Electronic Education Portal, represented by Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi, Minister of Education.

### The Sultanate of Oman

- The Ministry of Health for its project Trassud+ represented by Dr Fatma bint Mohammed al Ajmi, Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial and

Planning Affairs in MoH.

### The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- The Communications and Information Technology Commission for its project Platform for Delivery Applications via Electronic Platforms represented by Deputy Governor Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Jarbou.

- The Saudi Red Crescent Authority for its project Asefeh represented by Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Rasheed

### The State of Kuwait

- The Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), in joint collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Zain, for its project Shlonik, represented by The Director General CAIT, Haya Ahmed Al Wadani.

- The Public Institution for Social Security for its project Insurances Dhukhr (treasure), represented by General Manager Mishaal Abdulaziz Al Othman.

- Jif Company for the design and management of websites for its project Jif, represented by Ahmed Nader Marafie.

- Fanajeen General Trading Company for its project Fanajeen, represented by partner and founder Abdulaziz Adnan Al Shalfan.

## Kuwait makes proposals to boost transparency

cations of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effect it had on the whole world including the UN and the UNSC, while also commending the flexibility and resilience of the council through such times as it adapted to accommodate this extraordinary health situation. The Kuwaiti ambassador also noted that the work of the council improved significantly throughout the past two decades, adding that such improvement is necessary to ensure efficiency of its work in safeguarding international peace and security.

On that note, Otaibi added that Kuwait is part of innovative initiatives as it has signed the council's code of conduct specifying that signing members will not oppose proposed resolutions countering crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. Kuwait, along with several other countries, proposed a resolution to the general assembly

## Informatics Award holds exhibition showcasing 20 years of achievements

**KUWAIT:** His Highness Sheikh Salem Al Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award held an exhibition entitled "The Journey of the Award" to showcase 20 years of achievements and in honor of late Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The exhibition was held parallel to the Informatics Award ceremony on June 27 at Bayan Palace.

"The exhibition honors the noble stances of late Emir of Kuwait who had blessed us with his generous patronage for 14 years with his wisdom, continuous guidance and support and his presence in most of the award ceremonies... He deserves from us all honor, appreciation and reverence," said Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Award, Sheikha Ayda Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, adding that Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was visually represented throughout the exhibition.

Speaking at the event, she said that the exhibition is a living witness to the Informatics Award's national, Arab and international impact and role in preparing for a developed technical society that Arab countries feel the urgent need for.

Visitors of the exhibition, which was divided into five pavilions, noted the award's important accomplishments to date as well as its aspirations for more advancement in the field of information technology and digital applications. "The Journey" further reflected the award's activities on a global level, such as the Informatics Medal which were received by international individuals and entities. Honoring the late Emir of Kuwait with the 2020 Informatics Medal attests to its importance, as His Highness was considered an exceptional worldwide figure and a unique humanitarian leader, who effectively supported the digital transformation of the State of Kuwait.

The Informatics Medal was also awarded to dignitaries and organizations that made a difference in the world, such as Bill Gates, who is the pioneer of innovations that launched the communications revolution and introduced computers to the world. The medal was also given to the great African and Arab electronics scientist Dr Belgacem Haba, as well as the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Smart Dubai in the United Arab Emirates for its leadership in keeping pace with digital transformations, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the most famous and largest institute for the production of innovative technologies in the world.

At the Informatics Prizes pavilion, the impressive technical projects of the award, throughout its 20-year history of uninterrupted award-giving, were showcased. The projects showcased are websites, smart applications and technical systems that were invented by individuals, government and private agencies and civil societies of most Arab countries. Visitors were able to listen to a detailed explanation of each of the projects that won the Informatics Prize in its 20th edition.

At the "Shift (See) Kuwait" section, visitors were able to interactively learn about the country and all aspects of Kuwaiti life and people. Furthermore, the Informatics Academy pavilion showcased the technical and educational free courses provided to Kuwait's youth, which taught them the basics of digital manufacturing and enabled them to invent smart projects that offer important services to the community.

The Global Informatics Forum pavilion also revealed the participation of scientists from all over the world and highlighted the latest smart inventions of the digital mind, their dialogues and recommendations. Moreover, the Awareness and Cultural Activities pavilion attracted visitors because of the vitality of the topics it presented in the eight discussion boards, the six informational bureaus held by the award, the hosting of senior specialists and those interested in information affairs, and the cultural activities hosted by the award pavilion at the Kuwait

## From corona to Eurasia: Ukraine is just a station in the Middle!

By Prof Abdullah Yousef Sahar Mohammad  
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From the announcement of the coronavirus pandemic in 2019 to the Ukraine crisis, large international bubbles have exploded, heralding the arrival of a new world order. Usually, world systems change after wars between the great powers that separate the victor from the vanquished, so that the first party forms the configuration of the world system according to its power and interests. It is rare, however, for a dominant superpower to withdraw from the scene without a war so that the competing parties re-design the world order differently. This exception occurred when the Soviet Union decided to withdraw and left space for the United States to assume the role of forming a unipolar international

system! But America, over the past thirty years, could not do that for many reasons related to the American interior and the external international environment.

During the thirty years that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union, a great deal of transformation of the international system have taken place. In addition, during the past thirty years, a new conceptualization of power has appeared and states along with non-governmental entities interact in an unprecedented manner in history. Furthermore, new signs and forms of concepts of power have been advanced by the technological revolution paving the way to a new space evolution. During this era, the coronavirus pandemic bubble exploded. All these monumental events have contributed to shaping many potential transformations. Examples of such ramifications have expressed their forms in new types of alliances such as the tacit collusion between China, Russia, and Iran. Another episodic event that appeared in the international order is expressed in the amalgamation of technology and politics which shaped the new virtualization era of international order and maybe virtual states in the near future.

It can be said that the coronavirus pandemic contributed to bursting the bubbles of evolution-

ary change that were hiding behind the smoke of slow change. Coronavirus, which changed, or rather accelerated, the structure of international relations in a different way than it was before, has led to a very important result, which is embodied in the weakness of the United States as a hegemonic power trying to assume responsibility of international stability. This pandemic also contributed to accelerating the rearrangement of global economic relations and drawing new invisible alliances that reject the so-called, Pax Americana.

Accordingly, the new American strategy emerged in light of all these changes in order to target the escalation of its competitor's influence in some regional spheres. To make it very clear, the US is targeting China, Russia, and Iran raising political domination. Consequently, Ukraine for the United States is merely a spearhead in undermining the Russian influence on the republics that disintegrated from the former Soviet Union. Within this contestation arena, the war between Russia and Ukraine is deliberately motivated to serve as traps surrounding the movement of the Russian bear looking forward to its new role in the coming multi-polar system.

Alas, the tragic story of wars will not end in

Ukraine, but probably extend to the entirety of the two continents, Europe and Asia (Eurasia), and then there will be great repercussions and forebodings, and the United States and its "honest" European allies will not be able to confront the Triple Alliance with a military counteraction, but all that is there are economic and political movements followed by understandings. The hard truth, that the United States should learn, is that Pax Americana became like a mirage. However, in the real world, a newly multinational system is evolving and this fact should be recognized. The United States should accept sharing Hollywood theater with new actors to prevent being a rogue state as Samuel Huntington has stated. It is very obvious that the United States cannot be the only superpower but if it continues such international behaviors, it will definitely be the "lonely" superpower that has lost even its closest friends and associates.

Yet, the important question; particularly for political scientists, is how these hard strategies will shape the upcoming international scenarios? It is a huge question that needs great minds.

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