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AS WRITTEN

Speech Of

The STATE Of Kuwait

To The International

Conference On Population

And Development - Cairo

5 - 13 September 1994

In The Name Of Allah, The Beneficent, The Most Merciful

"O people, We created you males and females and caused you to be peoples and tribes to get to know each other . To Allah, the most honored of you all is that who fears Allah the most; Allah is The Omniscient . " (The Holy Quran)

Your Excellency / President Mohammed Husni Mubarak-
President Of The Arab Republic Of Egypt,

Your Excellency / Dr. Butros Butros Ghali-
United Nations
Secretary General

Gentlemen, The Conference Vice-Chairmen

Your Excellency / Dr. Nafees Sadiq
Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund,
and the Conference Secretary

Ladies & Gentlemen, Heads Members of Delegations.

In the name of the State Of Kuwait I have the pleasure to extend all thanks and appreciation to the Arab Republic Of Egypt: President, government & people for hosting this conference.

It is my pleasure as well, to express appreciation and pay tribute to H.E. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for his kind patronage of this conference, since we have always realized his deep interest and prominent efforts in setting out to all issues relating to population and human development in all its social, political, economic and environmental aspects ... It is for this interest and these efforts

he merits the appreciation of the international community and has been awarded " The 1994 Population and Development Prize

I also have the pleasure of extending all thanks and gratitude to Dr. Butros Ghali, the U.N. Secretary - General and all those in charge of the preparation for this conference, especially Dr. Nafees Sadiq, The Executive Director Of the U.N. Population Fund . It is my pleasure to praise your effective efforts towards steadfast population objectives and strategies within the framework of long development .

Mr.President,

Ladies and Gentlemen

The State Of Kuwait has been a forerunner to realize the extreme importance of human development and to take a qualitative step with its society realizing welfare for its individuals . Moreover, it has been one of the pioneer states confirming the necessity of international cooperation to confront population problems and their impacts that defer the construction of cultural and economic progress, provided that such cooperation should be within the legal framework of each society .

Emphasizing its belief in the role of economic and technical aid to confront poverty and problems of human and environmental development in most developing countries, to whose issues Kuwait is related, the State of Kuwait allocates a high rate of its Gross National Product (GNP) for international aid purposes which was estimated to be more than (20) billion U.S. Dollars in the period of (1970-1993), a percentage of 4.4% .

However, with the aggravation of foreign debts problem and its burdens in developing countries, constituting an extreme restraint for

development in most indebted countries, the State Of Kuwait did not care for being a creditor state when H.H. Sheikh Jaber AL-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, called poverty - stricken countries, and canceling debt with extreme indebtedness Jaber AL-Ahmad AL Sabah for waiving debts on interests on countries This initiative was made before the United Nations General Assembly meeting on 28th September, 1988 and less than a year later, during the 9th conference of the Non-Alignment Movement - held in Belgrade on the first week of September 1989 - H.H. the Emir presented the objective proposals for the implementation of such initiative .

Mr. President,

Ladies & Gentlemen

While such attitude has been a feature of Kuwait's international efforts towards issues of development and population in the Third World, Kuwait's local efforts have focused upon its economic, populations, and social special features .

A most prominent special feature of Kuwait is the absence of population problems relating to population surplus that exist in most developing countries, and the linkup between the ambitious development programmes adopted by the State of Kuwait and recruitment of foreign labor; thus, the human demographic dimension has been considered a pivot for development planning in the State of Kuwait since the early 60's .

Since the early 70's, intensive development programmes have focused upon building infra-structures and social services, in a manner that realized an equal progress in all indexes of Health Care,

Education, Housing, Communications, Transportation and other services which proved to be nearly similar to those indexes in developed countries; this fact is made clear by the data included in Kuwait's National Report on Population and Development presented to your esteemed conference .

Meanwhile, the 80's assured the State of Kuwait's precedence in efforts of including population programmes within its general development plans, when demographic and social balance was the principal pivot of all development process programmes within the five-year plan of 1985/86 - 1989/90

Around this pivot, the development process included improving all factors of human development and investment, improving the labor market in governmental and private sectors, maintaining the rates of social welfare for all citizens, increasing the Kuwaitis' contribution to the overall population and man power, and enhancing the indicators of private sector's contribution to the fields of development . In addition, it included the enhancement of women's role in these fields and the affirmation of their vital participation there in .

In 1989, a qualitative leap took place in the process of including population programmes within medium and long-term development plans . Thus, Kuwait's long-term development strategy was prepared and issued under the title :- " The Strategy of Building The Kuwaiti Individual "Within its framework, the long-term-draft plan (1990-2015) and the following five-year-development draft plan (1990/91-1994/95) were laid .

Mr. President,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The State Of Kuwait had gone forward in the population development march with incessant efforts until it was struck by the Iraqi aggression on the 2nd of August, 1990 . This caused the planning and development march to be deferred and absolutely halted during the period of occupation which lasted till the end of February 1991.

Moreover, this aggression constituted a serious turning point in the development process, since it has not excluded itself to the invasion and occupation of the country but gone further when the invaders inflicted vandalism and devastation to all economic, environmental and cultural sectors; aiming at the destruction of the Kuwaiti identity and the obliteration of its national characteristics .

Since the first day of liberation from the vicious Iraqi occupation, governmental and popular efforts have been intensified to face the invasion impacts and overcome the vandalism and devastation images that reached all aspects of life in Kuwait . It was through the collective and intertwining efforts of all Kuwaitis that the blazing oil-well fires were extinguished, the infra-structure and public utilities were rebuilt and productivity was restored; This contributed to the readiness of the society to pursue its planned development march Now, the government is being engaged in preparing the second development five-year-plan (1995/96- 1999/2000).

However, the negative social and psychological impacts resulting from the practices of the Iraqi regime are still weighing down on a large scale of the Kuwaiti people; Foremost are those problems resulting from the continuation of detention of those POW's and hostages held by the Iraqi regime .

Unfortunately, the Iraqi regime still declines to comply with the will of the international legitimacy represented by the U.N. Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression on the State Of Kuwait .

This regime continuously attempts to be evasive of such resolutions, aiming at its release from the sanctions imposed by the international community to guarantee its full implementation of those resolutions . Whereas these resolutions represent an integral and inseparable legal and political unit; especially . Resolution No. 833 relating to demarcation of borders between the State Of Kuwait and Iraq that guarantee the inviolability of the international borders between the two countries, and the resolution concerning the release of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti Prisoners of war and hostess .

Mr. President,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The trends of the second 5-year-development plan (1995/96 - 1999/2000) dealing with population issues , arose from the facts and special features of the State Of Kuwait, through emphasis on: maintaining the customs and values derived from the Islamic Law (Shari'a), complying with the spirit of Islam in behavior and transactions, enhancing the role of family considered as the Cornerstone of society, protecting and caring for the youth in accordance with the teachings of Islam, consolidating the productive stereotype within behavioral conduct of individuals, raising the standard and quality of public services, and encouraging individual initiatives and social responsibility . Moreover, this development plan has a tendency towards laying emphasis on correcting the imbalance of the demographic structure in a manner leading to raising the standard of individual and collective productivity, and enhancing social coherence and population balance .

Realizing the fact that development is unsustainable without women's participation on equal basis with men, the government has been keen to adapt, within its development plans, all the appropriate conditions to encourage women to work and responsibility sharing in different activities and fields that may not contradict with their principal role as mothers bearing the responsibility of up bringing the coming generations. This should conform with the teachings of Islam, which laid down the rules that guarantee women's optimum dignity, personal and financial independence, and equality in human, social and economic rights .

Mr. President,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Although population policies may differ in different countries according to each country's circumstances and special resources, this may not contradict with the necessity of holding coordination and cooperation relations and setting joint programmes between such countries; as well as attempting to achieve a mutual approach between such policies in countries of similar conditions, be it a phased or a long-term approach .

Accordingly, the State Of Kuwait affirms its support of the positive aspects included in your esteemed conference agenda that are in conformity with the objectives of the Islamic Law (Shari'a) aiming at human interests and welfare for man-kind.

Meanwhile, we would like to reservation, that, its commitment objectives or measures wherever stated record the State Of Kuwait's to

any population policies, in the conference agenda subject to their non contradiction nor infringement of the texts principles of the traditions of its development trends tolerant Islamic Law (Shari'a), customs of its national plans.

Mr President,

Ladies & Gentlemen

Allow me, once more, to repeat my sincere thanks to you, hoping that your esteemed conference may yield to steadfast everlasting development stereotypes in all participating countries, leading to an increased welfare and happiness of man - kind .

May peace and Allah's Mercy and Blessings come upon you .

For further information, please contact: popin@undp.org
POPIN Gopher site: <gopher://gopher.undp.org/11/ungophers/popin>
POPIN WWW site: <http://www.undp.org/popin>