

OPENING STATEMENT

BY

**HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH NASSER AL MOHAMMAD AL AHMAD AL SABAH
PRIME MINISTER OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

CO CHAIR OF ROUND TABLE # 2

AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2009

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK**

Your Highnesses, Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to our meeting on Climate Change. In the name of all of you, I convey our gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on his distinguished and persistent efforts to convene such conferences which aim to serve our world, as well as to reflect his desire to find practical innovative solutions prior to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change, to be held at the end of this year.

Your Highnesses, Excellencies,

Since the global agreement on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was signed in 1992, and the signing of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, and its entry into force in 2005. The world have witnessed climatic changes resulting from an increased and more diverse human economic activity. However, instead of reaching the required decrease in the rate of gas emissions during the first phase of the Convention for the period 2008-2012, which was previously agreed upon. Some of the concerned industrial states started talking about the impossibility of reaching the required rates. We therefore urge the industrial countries to adhere to the agreed levels and request them to assist the developing countries through the transfer of their experience and technical know-how, in order to enable all countries, developed, developing and poor to protect our environment and our land.

Your Highnesses, Excellencies,

In the same manner that we ask the industrial states to assume their international responsibilities, we, as developing countries, desirous of raising our rate of economic growth, must agree on what we have to do in the period following Kyoto and after the Copenhagen Conference, which will provide us all an opportunity to reach a consensus in opinion, to achieve sustainable reductions in gas emissions, which would serve our collective interests and preserve our world.

We would like to take advantage of our meeting to hear valuable views and ideas, which will contribute effectively to preserving our environment and our future. Climatic indications such as the increase in the size of the ozone layer hole, as well as the thinning of the ice caps and the rise of sea level, threaten the existence of Island states. Moreover, the increases in carbon dioxide levels are serious and worrisome indications that require us to join our efforts globally to find solutions.

Your Highnesses, Excellencies,

The Secretary-General, sensing the vital importance of the participation of the private sector in this meeting of ours, and taking into consideration the importance of our listening to what other solutions the private sector may offer in the investments of alternative energy, as well as, as adapting our economies to become environment friendly, through which we can limit the emission of gases harmful to the environment. It is incumbent upon us to have a dialogue and hold discussions with the private sector, provide it with the needed support, in order for it to present to us new innovative solutions which will transform our economies to green economies.

On the national level of my country Kuwait. The government strives to adhere to all international treaties aiming to protect the environment, ensure active participation in all international conferences and meetings, be among the first to sign such treaties, as well as enacting domestic laws and legislations.

The State of Kuwait also started implementing a national work plan to transform all ozone depleting materials in the consumer sectors to environment friendly technologies. For this achievement it won an international award from the United States Environment Protection Agency. Furthermore, the generous donation of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait at the OPEC conference in the amount of \$150 million, to finance scientific research related to energy and climate change, is a shining example of Kuwait's awareness of the importance of protecting our environment and our ecosystem.

So, with God's blessing, we proceed now with our meeting with the hope that it will be a very successful one.

Thank you all.