

Country: Kuwait

Committee: United Nations Development Programme(UNDP)

Agenda Item: Strengthening the Integration of Crisis Resilience



Systems with Peacebuilding Initiatives and Conflict Prevention Strategies

Kuwait, officially the State of Kuwait, is a country located in the northeast of the Arabian Peninsula on the coast of the Persian Gulf. It borders Iraq to the north and Saudi Arabia to the south. Kuwait's most distinctive geographical feature is the Kuwait Gulf, which indents the coastline for about forty kilometers, providing natural protection for Kuwait's port and constituting about one-third of the country's coastline. Its surface area is 17,818 km², so it is a small country. Kuwait, whose capital is the same name as its country, is divided into 6 administrative regions called governorates. These administrative regions are also divided into districts. Governorates are named as El Ahmedi, El Asime, El Cehra, El Fervaniye, Havalli and Mubarak el Kebir. There are ten islands within the country's borders, two of which, the largest, Bubiyan and Warbah, are of strategic importance. Arabic is the official language and Islam is the official religion. The country is governed by a constitutional monarchy. Kuwait has a parliament and elections, unlike other countries in the region. There are fifty MPs in the parliament. In the country that ranks fifth in the world in terms of oil reserves, oil constitutes 95% of exports and approximately 80% of the country's revenues. Kuwait generally maintains good relations with regional countries and hegemonic powers in terms of foreign policy.

Agenda Item: Strengthening the Integration of Crisis Resilience Systems with Peacebuilding Initiatives and Conflict Prevention Strategies

Kuwait is a leading country in humanitarian aid work, a policy adopted by the Kuwaiti government and people since the establishment of the Kuwait Development Fund in 1961, and the United Nations designated the State of Kuwait as the center of global humanitarian aid activities in 2014. Kuwait has been known for its aid work in various countries around the world since the 1960s, when it officially began its journey in the field of humanitarian entrepreneurship.

Over the years, it has officially helped many Arab countries grow, provided humanitarian aid to poor people, and contributed to the development of education, health, and various fields.

It has supported the growth of various countries in Africa, Asia and America, as well as being one of the first countries to rush to the aid of those affected by disasters, natural disasters, wars and conflicts in various parts of the world.

The Fund began financing various projects in Arab countries. By 1974, it had financed 47 projects in 11 Arab countries. The Fund's activities expanded over time, and today the number of countries benefiting from the Fund has reached 107, including 16 Arab countries, 42 African countries, 19 East and South Asian countries, 17 Central Asian and European countries, 13 Latin American countries and the Caribbean.

Kuwait made major efforts globally to alleviate the effects of the economic crisis that hit the world in 2008, and immediately after the crisis, it established the “Dignified Life Fund” and contributed its capital of \$100 million. The fund also played an important role in alleviating the negative effects of the global food crisis on developing countries.

Kuwait donated \$34 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In 2010, it hosted the Donors' Conference for the Reconstruction of Sudan and contributed \$500 million.

Following the outbreak of war in Syria, Kuwait hosted donor conferences in 2013, 2014 and 2015. It donated \$300 million in the first, \$500 million in the second and third. It also participated in the fourth donor conference and provided \$300 million.

In 2021, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (Kuwait Fund) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a new partnership agreement to increase support for countries and communities affected by the crisis and working to build resilience in the context of increasing humanitarian and development challenges. The agreement will enable the two institutions to jointly strengthen the resilience of partner countries around the world and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing support across the axis of humanitarian aid, development and peace. It will enable the Kuwait Fund and UNDP to provide strategic and critical support at this vital nexus as it works to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The agreement, signed ahead of the virtual meeting between Kuwait Fund Director General Abdulwahab El Bader and UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner, provides support for sustainable livelihoods, peacebuilding, crisis prevention and recovery, and post-crisis stability.

Kuwait was one of the first countries to provide aid to those affected by the earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria in February 2023. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Development announced that it had donated \$30 million immediately after the earthquake. It launched the “Kuwait is With You” campaign, which was broadcast on Kuwaiti media channels in cooperation with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Information, and raised approximately \$68 million in donations. It sent health and relief teams to the earthquake-affected areas and organized aid convoys through charities.

From the Kuwait's standpoint, the UN (United Nations) could take the following potential actions:

- Promote tolerance, understanding and respect for many cultures and ethnicities through creating educational initiatives and awareness-raising campaigns. Schools, colleges, media outlets and civic organizations can all be used for this.
- Increase discourse and exchange between countries by promoting programs that help people from different countries communicate and understand each other. This can enable people to interact in a positive way. This will be a great development for peacebuilding.
- Kuwait might examine and improve its current legislation to prevent conflict and increase crisis resilience. The society should be analyzed well and the reasons at the root of the conflict or possible conflict should be eliminated.
- Continually analyze the efficacy of established strategies, get input from impacted groups and make appropriate modifications to policies and programs to ensure continued success.
- By cooperating with religious leaders as well as civil society organizations, a peaceful environment can be established and conflicts can be prevented.

By taking these steps, Kuwait can contribute to strengthening the integration of crisis resilience systems into peacebuilding and conflict prevention strategies.

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