

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

REMARKS AT INAUGURATION OF UN HOUSE IN KUWAIT
Kuwait City, 18 January 2009

Your Excellency Sheikh Mohammad al-Sabah,
Members of the diplomatic corps,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a tremendous pleasure to be here tonight on this auspicious occasion with my good friend, His Excellency Sheikh Mohammad al-Sabah, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait.

This magnificent building is a gift from the Government of Kuwait to the United Nations. But it is also much more than that. It is a gift to the peoples of this country and the region who will benefit from the work that will be carried out here for years to come.

This building also stands as a powerful and enduring symbol of the strong and constructive ties between the Kuwaiti Government and the United Nations.

Kuwait has extended extraordinary generosity in providing the United Nations with these state-of-the-art facilities. We are deeply grateful. And we are inspired to match your high expectations with outstanding results.

This UN House will be open not only to the UN family in Kuwait, but also to the larger community of our partners – students, academics, members of Kuwaiti society and, above all, to anyone in this country who is interested in learning more about the United Nations and carrying forward its goals and principles.

We are honored to accept this building as our new home in Kuwait.

On behalf of all of my UN colleagues, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Kuwait.

I thank all of you for being here tonight to help usher in a new era in our work. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure that this UN House stands not only as a physical monument to our shared objectives, but as a living force for achieving them.

Thank you.

