

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is transparent, says Al-Jarallah

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KUWAIT: The Under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah told reporters that the resignation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah is not related to any financial transactions, National Assembly's interpellation or the responses of the ministry that will be presented to the National Assembly later. He added that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs works with full transparency with nothing to hide. This statement was given to reporters during the celebration of the United Nations (UN) day at the UN House in Mishref on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011.

Furthermore, he mentioned that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah has set the pillars for Kuwaiti diplomacy, and that the ministry is following his footsteps. He added that the ministry will work relentlessly to turn a major part of the Kuwaiti diplomacy into an economic diplomacy, and mentioned that the former minister will be available to support the ministry whenever required.

Moreover, Al-Jarallah took pride in the strong relationship that binds Kuwait to the United Nations and hoped to further develop this relationship. He said that the United Nations played a prominent role during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait lands granted its liberation. He noted that Kuwait's supportive stance towards all UN authorities and organizations is the means to show Kuwait's pride in this historic relationship. He also praised the UN for its leading role in development, adding that Kuwait's financial contributions to the UN in the humanitarian field have significantly improved; thus cementing the existing partnership between the international organization and Kuwait.



Health Minister Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer (second left), Undersecretary Khaled Al-Jarallah (center) and UNDP Permanent Resident Representative Dr. Adam Abul-Mawla during a reception held at the UN quarters on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011. (Al Watan)

Al-Jarallah clarified that Kuwait's contribution to the United Nations increased from 300,000 Kuwaiti dinars to KD 600,000 for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and increased its contribution to the International Organization for Migration from 200,000

US dollars to \$ 500,000. He also praised the role of the United Nations in liberating Kuwait.

On his part, Dr. Adam Abul-Mawla Permanent Resident Representative of the UN Development Program said, "All UN agencies in Kuwait are working to achieve the Millennium

Development Goals by 2015. This year alone, we have touched upon all the relevant MDG'S for Kuwait and took essential steps in their realization."

The UN celebrated its 66th birthday in a ceremony with the attendance of senior Kuwaiti

officials, world diplomats and UN personnel. "On this day, we are reminded of the role the United Nations plays in attaining peace, stability and development in the world," Kuwait's State Minister for Planning and Development Affairs, Abdelwahab Al-Haroun said in his opening speech of the event, marking the Oct. 24 celebration of the anniversary of the UN Charter. "We also value the role of the UN Development Programme, in providing continuing technical assistance in order to achieve the required levels of development, particularly sustainable development.

"We have outlined a plan; the development plan, and a long-term strategic goal to achieve His Highness the Amir's vision in transforming Kuwait into a financial and trade center by 2035," he added.

Additionally, Al-Jarallah, said: "Kuwait, on the occasion of the 66th UN Day, remembers what this organization stands for in its representation of social security. We have only but to express our pride of this relationship with the UN and we would also like to note our keenness in ushering forward this relationship towards further cooperation." Al-Jarallah spoke of Kuwait's initiative for the UN, that saw the Gulf country build an architectural marvel of a base two years ago, housing all of the UN's agencies under one roof. "This (cooperation) is what senior officials in Kuwait are making sure of, having long declared their keenness in hosting a UN headquarters. This has been achieved on Kuwaiti soil in the form of the UN House, which Kuwait granted to this international organization as a symbolic gesture." The official also underlined the UN's major historic role in liberating Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion in 1991. Kuwait joined the United Nations on May 14, 1963, becoming the 111th member of the global body.