





This year, the State of Kuwait celebrates a special and distinguished occasion close to the hearts of all Kuwaiti people, to those who reside in Kuwait and to all of Kuwait's friends. The 19th of June marked the 60th anniversary of Kuwait declaring its independence on June 19, 1961. The independence document succeeded the treaty signed in 1899, by the late Amir Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah (God bless his soul) with Great Britain. That treaty, which embodied the historical and developing bonds of friendship between the State of Kuwait and the friendly United Kingdom, continued to prosper with greater momentum and diversity even after the treaty between the two friendly countries was terminated. The State of Kuwait has benefited greatly from the British expertise in many fields, especially in laying the grounds for development and progress that Kuwait has pursued on its course to building the foundations of the modern state it is today, where the rule of law and institutions prevail.

The State of Kuwait is proud of its commitment to the democratic approach, and responsible freedom, where all citizens adhere to its constitution and work within its framework.

Besides, the outstanding success of the ambitious visions of Kuwait's political leaders to be placed amongst developed countries on all developmental indicators, makes us proud. This was a result of the rational planning and confident management of its consecutive leaders since the discovery of oil in 1938, then the export of the first shipment of it in 1946.

The State of Kuwait has always endeavoured to invest in its huge oil revenues, redirecting them towards various Government Innovation programmes, mainly focusing on developing the educational and health systems in the country. And also sought to invest hugely in its human capital, believing that this is the



basis of the construction epic. It built its infrastructure according to the latest and highest standards. Kuwait established and expanded modern residential cities, suburbs and integrated facilities, with its citizens' well-being in mind, to provide them with decent livelihoods. Kuwait was also keen to transform itself into a regional financial and commercial centre, through launching major development projects, building airports and seaports with large capacities, which enabled Kuwait to become a trade hub in the region. The cooperation between the government and the parliament elected by the people, allowed Kuwait to enact the necessary laws and regulations to attract foreign capitals to invest in the country in a way that achieves the mutual benefit of all parties, raises the efficiency of the national economy, and diversifies its resources.

At this time, Kuwait is working systematically and strenuously hard, to move forward, at a steady and optimistic pace, towards achieving a bright, flourishing and prosperous future, with civilisational and developmental attainments, through Kuwait Vision 2035. Kuwait's vision is consistent with its capabilities and potential to ensure the achievement of its desired goals. Kuwait Vision 2035 aims to advance all of Kuwait's vital sectors in order to place the country among the top thirty countries on the global indicators by 2035.

Since its independence, the State of Kuwait has adhered to its "well-established political principles" in its dealings with the various brotherly and friendly countries and international organizations. Kuwait has adopted the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, and regional cooperation. Sticking to this mantra, Kuwait earned the confidence of the international community as an effective mediator, able to find solutions to end many regional conflicts that have dominated the political arena over the past decades.



Having its own preoccupation as a young country seeking to keep pace with the advancements of this era, Kuwait has not abandoned its noble principles in providing relief to those affected by wars and natural disasters. Kuwait's tireless quest to alleviate their suffering earned it the well-deserved title of a "Centre for Humanitarian Action" by the United Nations. His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (May God bestow mercy on his soul), was named a "Leader of Humanitarian Action", for his sponsorship of pioneering initiatives in the field of humanitarian work, which led to Kuwait being highly perceived amongst other nations. Kuwait has established the oldest financing institution in the Arab world and the Middle East, "Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development", to provide aid and assistance to all brotherly and friendly countries in need.

The State of Kuwait looks forward to further its constructive cooperation with its allies and friends, to work together in a spirit of friendship and understanding, in order to enhance international peace and security. Kuwait aims to achieve the desired aspirations of peoples through its commitment to sustainable development and transforming its goals into a present and tangible reality to advance all aspects of life, for all humanity.

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al-Sabah
Amir of the State of Kuwait