


28 December 2012

Your Highness,


I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome and exceptional hospitality extended to my delegation and myself during my recent visit to Kuwait on 5 and 6 December 2012.

I was honoured to meet with you and exchange views on a range of issues, including relations between Kuwait and Iraq, peace and security in the Middle East, Syria, and Palestine, as well as to reaffirm the long-standing partnership between the United Nations and Kuwait.



As you are aware, this was my second visit to Kuwait and Iraq this year, which reflects the high importance that I attach to supporting the normalization of relations between the two countries. I welcomed our discussion concerning fulfilment by Iraq of its Chapter VII obligations pertaining to Kuwait. Since my visit, I was encouraged by the nomination and deployment by Iraq of its technical observers for the maintenance of the boundary. This important development should enable the timely completion of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Maintenance Project, with the support of the United Nations, pursuant to Security Council resolution 833 (1993). It is my hope that this positive momentum will be sustained, particularly given the measures undertaken by Kuwait to provide for an environment of confidence between the two countries, including on the issue of Iraqi Airways. I have emphasized to Iraq the importance of moving forward with all aspects of the boundary, including the clearance of obstacles and acceptance of payment for the compensation of farmers.

His Highness  
Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah  
Amir of the State of Kuwait  
Kuwait City



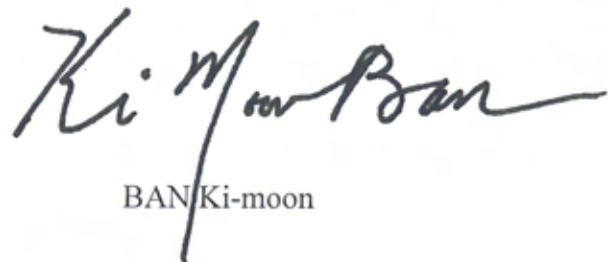
While calling on Iraq to fulfil all its outstanding Chapter VII obligations to the Security Council, I would also hope that Kuwait will demonstrate the necessary reciprocity and flexibility, in the spirit of normalization heralded by your historic visit to Iraq earlier this year. In this connection, it is my hope that the planned visit by the Prime Minister of Kuwait to Baghdad and the next meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee will provide opportunities to build further positive momentum. I will continue to follow developments closely, and have asked Mr. Martin Kobler, my Special Representative for Iraq, to keep me fully informed of his efforts on my behalf.

I highly appreciated the significant contributions by Kuwait to the humanitarian response to the conflict in Syria and its support for Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria. This is in keeping with the tremendous generosity of Kuwait in addressing humanitarian crises worldwide and its support for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. In this regard, the United Nations looks forward to deepening its cooperation with Kuwait through Dr. Abdullah Al-Matouq, the newly-appointed Humanitarian Envoy.

I valued the exchange of views with Your Highness on the issue of Palestine, particularly following the vote in the General Assembly according it non-member observer State status in the United Nations. I am grateful for the contributions of Kuwait in ensuring the viability of the Palestinian Authority and for strengthening unity among Palestinians, as these are crucial elements for enabling the resolution of the conflict. I will continue to appeal for the resumption of dialogue in order to end the occupation that started in 1967.

Please be assured that the United Nations stands ready to strengthen its cooperation with Kuwait and to advance peace, security and prosperity in the region. Allow me also to take this opportunity to thank you for your gift, which will remain a symbol of the excellent relations between the United Nations and Kuwait.

Please accept, Your Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki-moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki-moon" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ban".

BAN Ki-moon



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

28 December 2012

Excellency,

I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome and exceptional hospitality extended to me and my delegation during my recent visit to Kuwait on 5 and 6 December 2012.

I was honoured to exchange views on a range of issues including the situation in Syria, Palestine, and relations between Kuwait and Iraq. I am grateful for the important contributions by Kuwait in these areas, in keeping with the tremendous generosity of your country in addressing humanitarian crises worldwide, supporting the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and seeking the improvement of neighbourly relations. It was my privilege to reaffirm the long-standing partnership between the United Nations and Kuwait.

As you are aware, this was my second visit to Kuwait and Iraq this year, which reflects the high importance that I attach to supporting the normalization of relations between the two countries. I welcomed our discussion concerning fulfilment by Iraq of its Chapter VII obligations pertaining to Kuwait. Since my visit, I was encouraged by the nomination and deployment by Iraq of its technical observers for the maintenance of the boundary. This important development should enable the timely completion of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Maintenance Project, with the support of the United Nations, pursuant to Security Council resolution 833 (1993). It is my hope that this positive momentum will be sustained, particularly given the measures undertaken by Kuwait to provide for an environment of confidence between the two countries, including on the issue of Iraqi Airways. I have emphasized to Iraq the importance of moving forward with all aspects of the boundary, including the clearance of obstacles and acceptance of payment for the compensation of farmers.

His Excellency  
Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs  
and State Minister for Council of Ministers Affairs of the  
State of Kuwait  
Kuwait City



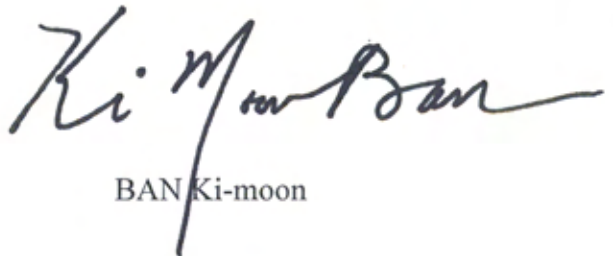
While calling on Iraq to fulfil all its outstanding Chapter VII obligations to the Security Council, I would also hope that Kuwait will demonstrate the necessary reciprocity and flexibility, in the spirit of normalization heralded by the historic visit to Iraq earlier this year by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. In this connection, it is my hope that the planned visit by the Prime Minister of Kuwait to Baghdad and the next meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee will provide opportunities to build further positive momentum.

I will continue to follow developments closely with regard to relations between Kuwait and Iraq. I have asked Mr. Martin Kobler, my Special Representative for Iraq, to keep me fully informed of his efforts on my behalf.

Please be assured that the United Nations stands ready to strengthen its cooperation with Kuwait and to advance peace, security and prosperity in the region.

Last but not least, let me also take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent dinner you hosted in my honour. Your gift will also add to the many symbols of the excellent relations between the United Nations and Kuwait.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
BAN Ki-moon



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

28 December 2012

Excellency,

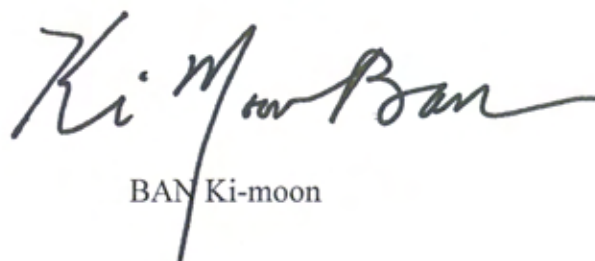
Please allow me to express my gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality extended to me and my delegation during my recent visit to Kuwait on 5 and 6 December 2012.

I was honoured to exchange views with the Amir and the Foreign Minister on a range of issues, including the situation in Syria, Palestine, and relations between Kuwait and Iraq. I am grateful for the important contributions made by Kuwait in these areas, in keeping with the tremendous generosity of your country in addressing humanitarian crises worldwide, supporting the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and seeking the improvement of neighbourly relations. It was my privilege to reaffirm the long-standing partnership between the United Nations and Kuwait.

I also welcomed the exchanges of views concerning fulfilment by Iraq of its Chapter VII obligations pertaining to Kuwait. It is my hope that Kuwait will continue to demonstrate the necessary flexibility, in the spirit of normalization heralded by the historic visit to Iraq earlier this year by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; and that the positive momentum will be sustained, particularly given the measures undertaken by Kuwait to provide for an environment of confidence between the two countries.

Lastly, I would be grateful if you could convey my appreciation to your colleagues in New York and in Kuwait for their dedicated efforts and the assistance provided in support of my visit. I look forward to continuing our close cooperation in pursuit of our common goals, in particular, the advancement of peace, security and prosperity in the region.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency  
Mr. Mansour Ayyad SH A Alotaibi  
Permanent Representative of the State  
of Kuwait to the United Nations  
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

28 December 2012

Dear Ms. Hamdan,

I thank you and the United Nations Country Team for your professionalism and dedicated efforts made in support of my recent visit to Kuwait on 5 and 6 December 2012.

The visit was successful and productive due to your close working relationship with the Kuwaiti authorities, which helped to ensure that the programme ran smoothly. I would be grateful if you could convey my sincere appreciation to all United Nations colleagues on the ground, who were instrumental in putting the arrangements in place for my visit, namely Mr. Alaa Aboud, Mr. Ahmed Jibril, Ms. Josephine Moss and Ms. Asmae Aitssi.

I was pleased by the opportunity I had to discuss with the leadership of Kuwait a number of issues of concern to the United Nations and the country. On the other hand, I regretted that this time around my programme did not allow me to interact directly with the UN Staff, including the Country Team.

I wish the entire United Nations Country Team every success in their daily endeavours at the service of the Organization and the Kuwaiti people.

Yours sincerely,



BAN Ki-moon

Ms. Hanan Hamdan  
United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i.  
and Head of Office of United Nations  
High Commissioner for Refugees in Kuwait  
Kuwait City

THANK YOU LETTERS FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO

KUWAIT

(Wednesday, 5 December – Thursday, 6 December 2012)

KUWAIT

1. **H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**, Amir of the State of Kuwait
2. **H.E. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and State Minister for Council of Ministers Affairs of the State of Kuwait
3. **H.E. Mr. Mansour Ayyad SH A Alotaibi**, Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations
4. **Ms. Hanan Hamdan**, United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i., and Head of Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Kuwait

Drafter: Brian Vitunic/SL

Reviewed by: SL

Proofread &

Formatted by: SOSG-ak/rc /BS

Approved by: Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General

Date: 28 December 2012

