



Social Determinants of Health

Thursday 30 May

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

I have the honor to present the State of Kuwait's national statement under agenda item 15.1

The State of Kuwait thanks the Director-General for his report.

It is an honor to address you today and highlight the significant strides Kuwait has made in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the realm of social determinants of health (SDH).

Guided by the World Health Organization (WHO), Kuwait has made remarkable progress towards a healthier, more equitable society. This journey began in 2019 with the establishment of the National Sustainable Development Committee (NSDC) and the National Observatory on Sustainable



Development (NOSD). These institutions integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national policies, in line with WHO's focus on economic equality and inclusive governance.

Notably, Kuwait has implemented social protection policies ensuring continuity, efficiency, and sustainability of essential services such as clean water, electricity, healthcare, education, and transport. These initiatives uphold high living standards, particularly benefiting vulnerable groups.

The COVID-19 pandemic tested our resilience. Our robust response, in line with recommendations from global health authorities, included strengthening healthcare, ensuring food security, and enhancing social protection. Despite challenges, we initiated several sustainable development projects, many of which are completed or underway.

Kuwait has significantly improved data collection and capacity development, addressing previous limitations highlighted in the WHO report through sustained investments. This generates robust data for targeting and monitoring SDG goals, ensuring evidence-based policies, as recommended.



While progress has been made around the globe, challenges persist, including the exacerbation of inequities by interlinked crises such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Internationally, Kuwait has provided over \$19 billion in development assistance to more than 106 countries through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), reflecting our commitment to global partnership.

Aligned with the SDGs, Kuwait's Vision 2035 emphasizes sustainable economic growth, social development, and enhanced public services. Our achievements in advancing these goals underscore our commitment to a sustainable future, echoing WHO's call for action on social determinants of health. By integrating these principles into our national strategies, we pave the way for a more equitable and prosperous society.

Thank you, Chair