

The State of Kuwait²

Memorandum Regarding the Position of the State of Kuwait on Declaring the Gulf Region as a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone



December 14, 2005

1. The GCC states are an inalienable part of the larger Arab world and the call for making the Gulf region free from WMD is a necessary and an urgent demand. It is an important first step, a mandatory prelude and an appropriate beginning, towards the attainment of the objective of declaring the entire Middle East region as free from Weapons of Mass Destruction.

2. Making the Gulf region free from WMD, along with the regional and international commitments and obligations such a project entails, will consolidate the prospects of success for making the entire Middle East free of these weapons and will add to the credibility and transparency of the Arab attitude in its efforts and aspirations to achieve this goal.

3. If the proper conditions and the required will exist to address a key concern related to security of the Arab World, no effort should be spared to pursue and implement this objective. It would be wrong to undermine such an opportunity by claiming that it is not inclusive. Minimizing the risks that threaten the security and stability of the region, where it is feasible, is a duty that cannot be ignored or postponed.

4. On a daily basis, security in the Gulf region is still facing the consequences of three destructive wars in the past three decades. Accordingly, it is not only the right, but also the duty

of the region to do everything in its power, according to its own requirements, to protect its national interests and maintain its stability without affecting the regional security as a whole.

5. The initiative to make the Gulf region free from WMD is an urgent necessity for safeguarding the security of the region. Any failure in achieving this objective through adopting confidence-building measures as a basis to eliminate any WMD in the region, could lead to an era of dangerous instability that could start with a costly arms race and probably end with a much more devastating military conflict. Particularly if a new military confrontation developed concerning Iranian nuclear capabilities, such a conflict would make the three previous wars in the Gulf look trivial in comparison to the destructive capability of the weapons available today and the widened potential battlefield,

6. An entire world free from WMD is still only a dream and a noble aspiration of people all over the globe. However, this should not thwart any efforts aimed at the creation of specific geographical areas that are free from WMD thereby preventing the proliferation of WMD in the future. Such steps will facilitate dealings with the regions already in possession of these weapons.

Source: Al Hayat Daily, January 2, 2006

² This official memorandum was presented by the FD