

**The representative of H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad  
Al-Sabah The Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait Your  
Excellency Mrs. Mariam Al Aqeel Minister of State for Economic  
Affairs Excellencies and Esteemed Guests, Ladies and  
Gentlemen,**

Good morning.

It is an honor to be standing before this esteemed gathering to speak on behalf of the private sector. It is also a great responsibility, as I find myself in a dilemma. One part of me is very optimistic about the national development plan, while the other part of does not look with great positiveness at this ambitious roadmap, which everyone is looking at as the gateway that will lead us away from all the challenges that are taking Kuwait by storm.

But we all know that there is no magic wand that can make things right, and that the solution lies in organized work, alongside great social and political efforts in order to push through the painful remedies.

Having said that, my optimism remains rooted in my belief in the capabilities of young Kuwaitis and their entrepreneurial skills. I also believe that our geographical location allows us to play a pivotal role in the region. The State also has the financial resources and infrastructure – such as our solid banking system, legal frameworks and others – that countries around us lack.

The challenges are not easy:

First – There is no role for the private sector to play in the Kuwaiti economy, despite the shy attempts of inclusion

Second – The curse of bureaucracy and the administrative hurdles it places in the face of investments

Third – The corruption that has found its way into the society, and development cannot exist in parallel with corruption.

These are some of the challenges, and they are not impossible to resolve. What we need are honest efforts and effective implementation of the law. There are many countries that have had to deal with much harsher circumstances and have succeeded in utilizing their resources to create a better tomorrow.

We stand before challenges that we hope the new Cabinet will be able to confront and deal with professionally. We wish the government all the best, and for the plan success.

Thank you.