

The Permanent Observer Delegation  
of the Cooperation Council for the  
Arab States of the Gulf to the  
United Nations -New York



بعثة مجلس التعاون  
لدول الخليج العربية  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

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**Statement by the Permanent Observer of the  
Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to  
the United Nation**

**At the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Policy makers,  
organized by the National Council of American Arab  
Relations**

**27-28 October 2011**

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciations to the National Council on US-Arab Relations for this kind invitation to participate in this important conference for us in the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf in particular, as much as it is very important for the Arab world as a whole in light of the recent developments in the region.

It is an honor to speak on my own behalf and on behalf of His Excellency Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council, who gave special attention to

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the participation of the GCC in this forum, which aims to improve knowledge and understanding in the U.S. of the Arab world and its issues through continuous dialogue so that policy makers in both the Arab world and America can take the decisions that serve the interests of both parties.

As you know, the Cooperation Council was established in 1981 by the six Arab states of the Gulf, where the leaders make policy decisions in the Supreme Council, based on the recommendations of the Ministerial Council, whose members are the Foreign Ministers. Supervision of implementation of the decisions and resolutions of these bodies are carried out by the Secretariat headed by the Secretary-General, assisted by senior officials and staff structure consistent with that of similar regional and international organizations.

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The establishment of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf States was not only timely, but was more than necessary to maintain the security and stability of all its member States, located in a region considered to be one of the world's most vulnerable to all forms of threats, specially security and environmental threats. Based on the analytical vision of the future, one can say that the GCC region will be very stable and stronger in the coming few years.

This stability provides the favorable conditions for the implementation of the mega-projects, the foundations of which have been built since the establishment of the Council. The Secretariat have activated the various agreements reached between the countries of the Council and many of them are under execution. Among these are: the Custom Union Agreement the Railroad link, the Electric Grid as well as practical steps for the establishment of the Central Bank have been taken,

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although not yet operational, the road have been paved for the Central Bank of the GCC to come to existence.

God willing, the GCC region have been endowed with one of the most important natural resources in the world namely oil.

The GCC countries have worked through the coordinating role and execution arm of the Secretariat to direct these resources for development, especially human development, where the standards achieved in human development are one of the highest indices compared to the rest of the world, putting the GCC countries on the road to achieve the Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule in 2015.

On the other hand the GCC showed great interest in the implementation of Agenda twenty one especially in the area of environment and climate change, because of the implied responsibility of oil on climate change. For this

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purpose large budgets were allocated for research in alternative energy and renewable energy sources in support of the global efforts, especially those of the developing countries in this area. The world crowned these initiatives by selecting the United Arab Emirates to host the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

In the area of international economic cooperation, four of the of the Council's six members have not only reached, but exceeded the agreed percentage of 0.07% of their Gross National Product (GNP), as Official Development Assistance (ODA), a percentage which was not achieved by any of the major industrial countries known of their generosity. At the same time the GCC countries became among the largest contributors in natural disaster mitigation through the United Nations Emergency Fund and other organizations, as well as providing the bulk of their assistance bilaterally to the affected countries directly.

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In view of the international tension created by terrorism and hatred of the other, The GCC member States sponsored many initiatives for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions. The General Assembly of the United Nations held a Special Session of this dialogue advocated by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques H. M. King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz. Because of such initiatives, the international community selected the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the International Centre for Terrorism Studies. The agreement of this Center have been signed recently between the United Nations and the Kingdom Saudi Arabia.

In conclusion it should be emphasized that the realistic and rational policy adopted by the GCC aiming at the security and safety of the citizens of the Gulf will continue in the future and will be consolidated by the continuous work to achieve the desired unity of the Gulf countries. Only by

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such tools, stability can be ensured in the region,  
and prosperity for its people would be maintained.  
As a result, the people of the whole world would  
benefit greatly, given the large role played by all  
the GCC countries in international cooperation  
encompassing all its dimensions.

Thank you,

**Dr. Adnan bin Ahmed Al Ansari,  
Permanent Observer,  
Delegation of the Cooperation Council for the  
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