

## PRESS RELEASE

## OPENING OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UNCC GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission will hold its seventy-ninth session on 9 June 2015. At the opening plenary, the Council will elect a President to replace Australia and a new Vice-President to replace the Republic of Korea, whose terms concluded in December 2014. Jordan currently holds the other vice-presidency. Delegations from Iraq, including representatives from Iraq's Committee of Financial Experts, and Kuwait will address the Council at its opening plenary session.

During the session, the Governing Council will consider reports relating to the work of the Compensation Commission since the last session in October 2014. Discussions will be held on issues related to the \$4.6 billion remaining to be paid to the Commission's only outstanding award, audit activities, and the progress being made with regard to winding down as the Commission nears the conclusion of its mandate.

General background information on the work of the Compensation Commission is provided below.

A press release with information on the results of the seventy-ninth session will be issued on 9 June 2015.

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Background

The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations Security Council. It was established in accordance with Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) and 692 (1991) to process claims and pay compensation for direct losses and damage suffered by individuals, corporations, Governments and international organizations as a direct result of Iraq's unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait (2 August 1990 to 2 March 1991).

The Compensation Commission received approximately 2.7 million claims. The total asserted value of these claims (i.e., the amount sought by the claimants) was approximately \$352.5 billion. Ninety-seven Governments filed claims on behalf of their nationals, corporations and themselves, and thirteen offices of three international organizations filed claims on behalf of individuals not in a position to submit their claims through a Government. Six categories of claims were established: claims of individuals for departure from Kuwait or Iraq (category A claims); claims of individuals for serious personal injury or death (category B claims); claims of individuals for losses up to \$100,000 (category C claims); claims of individuals for losses over \$100,000 (category D claims); claims of corporations, other private legal entities and public sector enterprises (category E claims); and claims

of Governments and international organizations (category F claims). In June 2005, the Commission completed its processing of all submitted claims. The total compensation awarded was approximately \$52.4 billion.

To date, the Compensation Commission has made available to Governments and international organizations approximately \$47.8 billion for distribution to successful claimants in all categories, leaving \$4.6 billion remaining to be paid. Funds to pay compensation are drawn from the United Nations Compensation Fund, which receives five per cent of the proceeds generated by the export sales of Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products. With the adoption of decision 272 by the Governing Council in December 2014, Iraq's obligation to deposit this five per cent has been postponed until 1 January 2016, and as a result, no compensation payments towards the outstanding award will be made in 2015.

Further information about the Compensation Commission can be found on its website located at *www.uncc.ch*.

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