

PRESS RELEASE

OPENING OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNCC GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission will hold its eighty-third session on 3 October 2017. Delegations from Iraq, including representatives from Iraq's Committee of Financial Experts, and Kuwait will address the Council at its opening plenary session.

The key item for discussion will be the issue of options to ensure the timely resolution of the \$4.6 billion that remains to be paid to the Commission's only outstanding claim. This category E claim was submitted by the Government of the State of Kuwait on behalf of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and awarded \$14.7 billion in 2000 for oil production and sales losses as a result of damages to Kuwait's oil field assets. It represents the largest award by the Commission. With the adoption of decisions 272 (2014), 273 (2015) and 274 (2016) by the Governing Council, no compensation payments towards this outstanding claim award have been made since October 2014. Under decision 274, Iraq's obligation to deposit five per cent of the proceeds generated by the export sales of Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products is scheduled to resume on 1 January 2018.

The Council will also consider reports relating to the work of the Compensation Commission since its last session in April 2017.

General background information on the Compensation Commission is provided below.

A press release with information on the results of the eighty-third session will be issued on 3 October 2017.

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.

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