



Security Council

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United Nations Compensation Commission Governing Council

Statement of the President of the Governing Council

At the 187th meeting of the Governing Council held on 21 November 2013, the President of the Governing Council made the following statement:

“It is recalled that following a request from the Government of Iraq and the positive response from the participating governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UNCC Governing Council established the UNCC Follow-up Programme for Environmental Awards under decision 258 (2005). The mandate of the Programme was to ensure that \$4.3 billion in funds awarded for certain environmental remediation and restoration projects are spent in a transparent and appropriate manner on implementing those projects.

At this, the seventy-sixth session, by adopting Decision 271, the Governing Council declared the Programme mandate fulfilled in the cases of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Kuwait, upon the receipt of signed assurances from their respective Governments. At its seventy-fifth session, the Governing Council adopted Decision 270 declaring the Programme mandate fulfilled in the case of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, upon the receipt of signed assurances, and deciding that the Programme is considered closed in respect of the Islamic Republic of Iran. With the adoption of these two decisions, subject to the receipt of assurances, the entire mandate under this \$4.3 billion environmental programme has now been fulfilled. The environmental damage sustained as a result of Iraq’s invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990-91 was extraordinary in scale and the awarding of compensation for post-conflict environmental reparations is unprecedented. There is still much work to be done by the Governments of Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as they move forward with the implementation of their complex and challenging environmental remediation and restoration projects. The Governing Council invites them to share their experiences, best practices and lessons learned, both regionally and with the international community, to ensure a lasting legacy for policymakers, environmentalists and the general public in the years to come.

While the environmental programme mandate has been fulfilled, the UNCC continues to focus on payment of compensation awards and ensuring that the \$8.9 billion that remains outstanding of over \$52.4 billion awarded, is paid in full.”