



Mr. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo
Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
Special Procedures Branch
UNOG-OHCHR
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

M 62/2024

The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and would like to inform that the reply of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy in Kuwait to the first topic of the list sent on 6th February 2024 is as follows:

Groundwater in Kuwait although created and available throughout the country, is considered weakly renewable. The quantities that are extracted from reservoirs are replaced at a very small rate. Irrigation in arid region is always a challenging most of the problem relate to low rainfall conditions, poor groundwater quality, poor soil conditions, and extreme weather condition. Rising water level is a devastating problem for the agricultural lands. Water logging and soil salinization are direct results of the water level rise problem. Recently, some parts of Al-Wafra agricultural farms are witnessing such a problem. This phenomenon in the agricultural farms is usually attributed to several factors, among which are lithology, initial water level, drainage systems, poor deep well construction, and type of irrigation.

As a result of the gradual increase of the groundwater extraction for irrigation, the quality and quantity of the groundwater in the aquifers have been deteriorating, at the southern part of the farm area. Some of the irrigation water was lost due to evapotranspiration and the rest infiltrated back to the aquifer, results in increase the TDS level in the groundwater up to 14,000 mg/l, such an increase was observed at several locations within the farming area.

Ministry of Electricity and Water has decided to backfill 600 water wells drilled unofficially in the Damman Formation, to minimize the effect of water level rise in the Al-Wafra agricultural area. The farmers use the treated wastewater for irrigation.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 14th March 2024

N. A/r.b

