On April 26th, 1986, the world witnessed the worst nuclear disaster in nuclear industry history. Chernobyl disaster, whose 30th anniversary is commemorated this year. The explosion of unit 4 of Chernobyl nuclear power plant resulted in the complete destruction of the reactor core, the protection barriers, and the safety systems. The explosion caused the release of radioactive materials to contaminate the surrounding environment and to spread over large distances, during the accident active stage, which lasted for ten days following the accident.

The immediate loss of life reached some 30 workers within weeks of the accident. A 30 km “exclusion zone” has been imposed since that time, after the forced evacuation of about 200,000 people. Nonetheless, the destruction and scale of disaster brought by Chernobyl, was the motive for many countries, including Kuwait, to cooperate in this critically important field.

Chernobyl Unit 4 containment effort started in 1986. Since that time, continuous and enduring international effort has been put for the safe confinement of the disaster site together with the safe disposal of the radioactive constituents of the stricken reactor. With the extremely dangerous situation that prevailed in the aftermath of 1986 accident, there was an urgent need for a swift action to contain unit 4 together with its nuclear fuel. Consequently, and upon the
Safe Confinement. The New Safe Confinement together with its facilities that deteriorating by improvements of durability first stage, which ended in 2008, was dedicated to seek action for a long term solution for the lead and boric acid. However, rising concerns of international and Ukrainian nuclear energy for future generations. Moreover, the Chernobyl Shelter team of international and Ukrainian nuclear workers protection from radiation leakage. To this end, and upon the initiative of the GT and EC together with Ukraine in 1997, a team of international and Ukrainian nuclear experts developed the Chernobyl Shelter Implementation Plan (SIP) as a roadmap to transform the Shelter into an ecologically safe system. Moreover, the Chernobyl Shelter Fund was set up at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), to administer the resources of the operation.

The SIP divides the works into three stages. The first stage, which ended in 2008, was dedicated to preserving the present safety level from deteriorating by improvements of durability and reliability of present structures and systems. The second stage, which started in 2010 and is ongoing, is the construction of the New Safe Confinement together with all that include remotely controlled cranes, equipment for retrieval of radioactive materials and a control center for the safe dismantling, storage and disposal of these materials within the New Safe Confinement. The New Safe Confinement is in the form of a huge hangar, which is 260 m wide and 165 m long. The hangar takes the form of an arch with a height of 110 m. The structure is designed to contain and isolate the Shelter from the surrounding environment. Moreover, it is furnished with a sophisticated ventilation system to minimize the risk of corrosion. The whole structure is designed to endure extreme weather conditions including temperature variation from -43°C to +45°C and wind speeds up to 332 km/h. The New Safe Confinement is designed for a minimum of 100 years lifetime. It is worth mentioning that all works and efforts are within the framework of cooperation with the Government of Ukraine to obtain its approval on all proposed design, with complete consideration on workers protection from radiation leakage. The second stage comes upon the completion of the NSC, which is the dismantling and the management process of radioactive material within the confinement. The New Safe Confinement completion is expected during 2017. The contracted works of the New Safe Confinement reached more than €2,000 million by October 2015, provided from more than 40 countries. In this respect, Kuwait Fund, through Kuwait Fund, has stepped in to support Chernobyl Shelter Fund since its inception. In 1998, Kuwait Fund extended a grant of US$ 4 million, followed by another grant in 2005 with US$ 2 million. The Fund further provided two grants of US$ 5.2 million and US$ 3.8 million, to bridge the New Safe Confinement financing gap, in 2011 and 2015 respectively.

It is worth noting that Kuwait Fund maintains continuous follow up of all Chernobyl Shelter Fund projects, operations and budget in other donor countries and institutions to foster partnership among them in this critical domain to enable the safe use of nuclear energy for future generations.

In October 2008, the former USSR Council of Ministers decision of the former USSR Council of Ministers in November 1986, a confinement structure, also known as the "Shelter", was built to contain unit 4 together with about 200 tons of nuclear fuel. The fuel was mixed with 5,000 tons of sand, lead and boron acid. However, rising concerns regarding the deteriorating conditions of the Shelter urged the international community to seek action for a long term solution for the confinement of the stricken reactor.

On 3 April 1986, the nuclear reactor of the fourth series of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded. The cause of the accident was a sudden increase in power, which led to a loss of cooling via the safety valve, leading to a nuclear reaction. The reaction caused a release of radioactive materials into the environment, resulting in severe radiation exposure to people and severe environmental damage. The accident led to the immediate evacuation of thousands of people and the closure of the plant.

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