

Kuwait's VNR claims to ensure inclusiveness and equality (p. 9), yet Kuwait's constitutional guarantees of nondiscrimination are conditioned on race, origin, language and religion. The VNR is silent about the so-called Bidun, most of whom Kuwait has made stateless, denying many Bidun children access to schools.

While the VNR notes SDG 8 progress in migrant worker rights, ILO cites far more concerns over Kuwait's treatment of migrant workers than achievements. CESCR has found persistent treaty violations, including low wages, prohibiting strike action, withholding salaries, long hours, forced prison labor, inadequate housing and barriers to changing or leaving jobs, and has called for greater protection against the abuse, assault, and exploitation, particularly domestic workers.

Kuwait's VNR also indicates progress in gender equality (p. 41), yet the Constitution and laws do not protect against gender-based discrimination, notably in nationality, marriage, inheritance, polygamy women's personal autonomy and full enjoyment of human rights, despite the state's obligations under ICESCR and CEDaW. Most disturbingly, marital rape and sexual harassment in the workplace are not criminalized.

While the VNR often mentions support for human rights in Kuwait, the state has no independent national human rights institution.

Toward human rights-based sustainable development, we ask:

What steps are being taken to ensure the impartial local monitoring of the State's implementation of its human rights obligations?

Will Kuwait take the first step to remedy domestic-worker abuse by acceding to ILO Convention 189?

Is Kuwait ready to diversify, invest in renewable energy and support the IPCC 1.5 report in the UNFCCC negotiations?