It is with deep sorrow that the World Health Organization learned of the passing away of Professor Abdulrahman Al Awadi on 6 July 2019, ending a life of great accomplishments and achievements.

Professor Abdul Rahman Al Awadi was born in 1963 in Kuwait. He graduated from the Faculty of Health Sciences, the American University in Beirut (1958). He obtained his Ph.D in medicine from Aberdeen University, United Kingdom (1963); and MA in Public Health from Harvard University, United States of America (1965). Professor Al Awadi specialized in public health and assumed different positions in the Ministry of Health until he was appointed as the Minister of Health from 1975 to 1986. During his tenure, the health sector in Kuwait witnessed a significant progress in the area of health services, with quality no less than international standards, and a large number of hospitals and health facilities were also established. He became a member of the National Assembly of Kuwait (1975) where he assumed different key State positions and was appointed Minister of Planning (1984–1986) and Minster of State for Cabinet Affairs (1990–1991). In addition, Professor Al Awadi served in many national, regional and international organizations, and also helped promote the arabization and translation of several medical studies as well as contributing to a number of research studies on the environment.

Professor Al Awadi was awarded various honorary degrees, including an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (1977), and an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, United Kingdom (1982). He also received many awards and prizes, such as the United Arab Emirates Annual Health Award, and the Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Medical Sciences. He was also honoured by the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean for his valuable contributions to health (2013).
Professor Al Awadi will always be remembered by successive generations for his pleasant personality and presence, friendly manner and relentless optimism.

(1936-2019)  الـدكتور عبد الرحمن العوضي

Born in 1936, Professor Abdulrahman Al Awadi graduated from the University of Baghdad in 1958. He earned a Master’s degree in Medicine from the American University in Beirut in 1963 and a Doctorate in Public Health from the University of Toronto in 1965. He held various important posts in the health sector and served as Assistant Minister for Health in Kuwait until he was appointed Minister of Health in 1986. He worked on improving health services in Kuwait and enhancing primary health care. He published a large number of medical studies, and he was awarded the title of Knight by the University of Ireland in 1982, and the title of Professor by the University of Jordan in 1990. He was also the President of the Kuwaiti Medical Association in 1984-1986 and the Jordanian Medical Association in 1990-1991.

The late Professor Abdulrahman Al Awadi was present in every generation with his pleasant personality and presence, his friendly manner and his relentless optimism.