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.

**Professor Abdulrahman Al Awadi (1936–2019)**

Professor Al Awadi will always be remembered by successive generations for his pleasant personality and presence, friendly manner and relentless optimism.

Born in Kuwait on June 6, 1936, Dr. Abdulrahman Al Awadi graduated from the University of Abadan in 1958. He received his medical degree from the American University in Beirut in 1963. He specialized in public health and served as Minister of Health in the United States in 1965. He held various important positions, including Head of the Ministry of Health from 1975 to 1985 and Secretary-General of the United Nations (1984-1986) where he was awarded the Order of Merit of the United Nations (1990-1991). He was decorated with the Order of the Lion and the Sun by the Kingdom of Jordan in 1986.

RIP Dr. Abdulrahman Al Awadi and may his soul rest in peace.

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