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Identical letters dated 14 October 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the League of Arab States, and in the capacity of Iraq as the current President of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 October 2019 from the Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the United Nations (see annex)* transmitting resolution 8454, entitled “Turkish aggression against Syria”, adopted at the extraordinary session of the Council of the League at the ministerial level, held in Cairo on 12 October 2019 (see enclosure).*

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34.

(Signed) Mohammed Hussein **Bahr Aluloom**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Circulated in Arabic and English only.



**Annex to the identical letters dated 14 October 2019 from the
Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

[Original: Arabic]

**Letter dated 14 October 2019 from the Permanent Observer
Mission of the League of Arab States addressed to the
United Nations**

In accordance with the practice followed by the Group of Arab States whereby the chair of each ministerial or summit session of the Council of the League of Arab States is charged with transmitting relevant decisions to relevant bodies of the United Nations by means of an official memorandum or letter from the office of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States in New York, and in accordance with article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith resolution 8454, entitled “Turkish aggression against Syria”, which was adopted at the extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level held on 12 October 2019 at the headquarters of the secretariat of the League in Cairo.

In accordance with paragraph 7 of the annexed resolution, I should be grateful if you would transmit the present letter and its enclosure to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for issuance as a document of the General Assembly, under the relevant agenda items, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Maged Abdelfattah **Abdelaziz**
Ambassador
Head of the Observer Mission, New York

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]

Resolution 8454, entitled “Turkish aggression against Syria”, adopted at the extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level held on 12 October 2019 at secretariat headquarters in Cairo

The Council of the League of Arab States, convened in an extraordinary session at the ministerial level on 12 October 2019 at secretariat headquarters in Cairo,

Reaffirming its resolutions adopted at the summit level concerning developments in the Syrian crisis, the most recent of which is summit resolution 758 adopted on 31 March 2019 at the thirtieth ordinary session held in Tunis,

Drawing attention to and *reaffirming* its resolutions concerning violations by Turkey of the sovereignty of Iraq, the most recent of which is resolution 8418 adopted on 15 September at by the 152nd ordinary session,

Reaffirming the importance of preserving the unity and independence of Syria, and *reiterating* its resolutions concerning the political solution and the implementation of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), because that is the only means of resolving the crisis in Syria and ending the suffering of the Syrian people,

Having been briefed by delegates and the Secretary-General,

Decides to:

1. *Condemn* the Turkish aggression against Syrian territories, because it is a clear breach of the principles of the United Nations Charter and Security Council resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), in which the Security Council calls for the unity and independence of Syria to be preserved, and because it is a direct threat to Arab national security and to international peace and security, and *underscore* that any effort by Syria to respond to this aggression and defend Syrian territory are in keeping with the exercise of the inherent right of legitimate self-defence, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Call upon* Turkey to end its aggression and withdraw immediately and unconditionally its forces from all Syrian territory, and *underscore* that this aggression is the latest in a series of unacceptable interventions and repeated attacks by Turkey against the sovereignty of States members of the League of Arab States.

3. *Reject* categorically any Turkish and or other efforts that are aimed at imposing demographic changes in Syria by force within the so-called buffer zone, because such attempts are a violation of international law that must be addressed and prevented by the international community, and because they pose a serious threat to the unity and territorial independence of Syria and the cohesion of its social fabric, and *to reaffirm* that international law must be observed;

4. *Hold* Turkey fully responsible for the implications that its aggression might have for the spread of terrorism or the resumption by terrorist organizations, including Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), of their activities in the region, and *to urge* the Security Council, in particular its permanent members, to take immediately all measures required to ensure that Turkey fulfil its responsibility to prevent foreign terrorist fighters from exfiltrating Syria or rebuilding their capacity in the country, as that would undermine the progress that has been made in the fight against terrorism and threaten regional and international security;

5. *Reaffirm* the unity and independence of Syria and the need to commence without delay United Nations sponsored political negotiations, in particular within

the framework of the Constitutional Committee that was recently established, in order to implement the provisions of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) and arrive at a political settlement to the crisis in Syria and end the suffering of the Syrian people, and also to *reaffirm* that there is no military solution to the crisis and that pursuing the political track is the only means of resolving the crisis and addressing its ramifications in a manner that is in keeping with international law, ensures the security of Syria, its neighbours and the countries of the region, leads to the departure of all foreign forces from Syria and enables Syria to regain its role in the Arab regime of cooperative action;

6. *Call upon* the Security Council to take the measures needed to compel Turkey to end its aggression and withdraw immediately from all Syrian territory, and to *urge* the international community to take action in that regard and prevent Turkey from receiving any military support or information that might help it in its aggression against Syrian territory;

7. *Instruct* the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to contact the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to convey to United Nations Members the resolution that the Council of the League adopted and have it circulated as a document of the United Nations, and to explore, in coordination with the Arab member of the Security Council, arrangements to have an Arab ministerial delegation, the composition of which is to be determined, meet with the Council in order to follow up on the matter and take measures to halt the Turkish aggression against Syrian territory;

8. *Consider* taking diplomatic, economic, investment and cultural measures, as well as measures related to tourism and military cooperation, in response to the Turkish aggression;

9. *Instruct* the Group of Arab States in New York to examine means of addressing the Turkish aggression at various United Nations bodies, in particular the Security Council, and to present, as soon as possible, its recommendations in that regard to the Council of the League;

10. *Establish* an Arab committee to follow up on the question of Turkish intervention in Arab countries and to have it present its recommendations to the Council of the League at the ministerial level;

11. *Request* the Secretary General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution and report to the Council at its next ordinary session, in coordination with member States.

(Resolution 8454 — extraordinary session — 12 December 2019)

- Qatar reiterates its long-standing position that the sovereignty of Syria must be maintained. However, we note the enthusiasm with which the Secretariat called for this meeting to be convened is rather missing when it comes to Arab States in which legitimate authority and sovereignty are being violated, either by completely illegitimate forces or forces that are financed, regrettably, by Arab states, and in the absence of a request from the legitimate government, and yet our Council does nothing. Instead, it justifies the intervention by Arab States in the internal affairs of other Arab States under the pretext that they are protecting themselves against terrorism, and it prohibits other States from doing so, thereby establishing a policy of double standards. Accordingly, Qatar expresses its reservation with regard to the present resolution and requests this text be appended thereto.
- Somalia expresses its reservations with regard to this resolution.