



General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 June 2020

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 4

Election of the President of the General Assembly

Letter dated 2 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith my letter addressed to the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, dated 1 June 2020, regarding the election of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Lana Nusseibeh
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 2 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my government, I write with reference to your letter dated 27 May 2020, by which you placed under silence procedure, until 5 p.m. on 1 June 2020, in line with General Assembly decision 74/544 of 27 March 2020, a decision by the General Assembly to elect Volkan Bozkır of Turkey as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session. I also refer to the letter dated 1 June 2020 sent jointly by Armenia and Cyprus ([A/74/875](#)), and to the letter dated 1 June 2020 sent by Greece ([A/74/876](#)), separately objecting to the election of Mr. Bozkır by silence procedure and requesting that the election of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session be held by secret ballot.

In addition to the issues raised by Armenia, Cyprus and Greece, which we fully recognize and share, and without breaking the silence procedure, my government would like to express its long-standing concerns over Turkey's ongoing interference in the sovereign affairs of Arab states, which the United Arab Emirates categorically rejects, and respectfully seeks assurances that Mr. Bozkır will fulfil the responsibilities of President of the General Assembly in an independent and impartial manner.

The United Arab Emirates reiterates its condemnation of Turkey's escalating violations of Greece's national airspace, the ongoing Turkish illegal activities in Cypriot waters and its other provocative actions in the region highlighted by the Joint Declaration adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece and the United Arab Emirates on 11 May 2020. The United Arab Emirates further reiterates that the maritime and military cooperation memorandums of understanding concluded by Turkey and the Government of National Accord are – respectively – in contravention of international law and the Security Council's sanctions regime on Libya. In this regard, the United Arab Emirates firmly rejects Turkey's plans to undertake drilling activities under the pretences of an invalid agreement that contravenes applicable principles of international law.

Turkey's military intervention in Libya, its continuing provision of weapons and its transfer of fighters from Syria, in breach of the commitments it made at the Berlin Conference on Libya in January 2020, threaten to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Libya and in neighbouring countries in North Africa and the Sahel, frustrate the prospects for a peaceful political solution to the conflict, destabilize the region and are in violation of international law.

The United Arab Emirates further condemns, in the strongest terms, Turkey's continued military activities in both Syria and Iraq, in violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and relevant decisions of the Arab League. This unlawful behaviour further weakens these countries and creates conditions that terrorist organizations like Da'esh can and will exploit.

The United Arab Emirates echoes the serious concerns expressed by Armenia and Cyprus as to Turkey's persistent policy of denying the genocide of Armenians committed in the Ottoman Empire. In light of this legacy and its continuing harmful effects, we are alarmed by Turkey's harbouring of religious extremists and the way in which it seeks to use their incitement of sectarian hatred to further Turkey's political agenda in Egypt, Libya and a number of other Arab states.

Turkey's ambition to dominate Arab sovereign territory and interfere in Arab internal affairs in large parts of the Middle East comes at great expense to peace and

stability across the region and contradicts the principles upon which the United Nations was founded.

Allow me to emphasize, with all due respect to Mr. Bozkır, that the positions of the United Arab Emirates expressed above concern Mr. Bozkır's government, and do not relate to him personally. That said, in light of the serious matters outlined above, we respectfully call on Mr. Bozkır to supplement the assurances he provided in the interactive dialogue with the membership on 15 May 2020 to ensure he fulfils his responsibilities in an independent and impartial manner, and to explicitly dissociate himself from the actions of Turkey in violation of international law, and from the divisive and dangerous rhetoric of President Erdoğan.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 4 "Election of the President of the General Assembly".

(Signed) Lana **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
