



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 4

### Election of the President of the General Assembly

#### **Letter dated 15 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On the instructions for my Government, I am writing to you with regard to your letter dated 27 May 2020 concerning the election of Mr. Volkan Bozkır of Turkey as President of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, as well as with regard to the justified concerns that the representatives of several Member States expressed in the communications that they addressed to you.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that it seeks to maintain the best possible relationship with Turkey and the Turkish people, its friend and neighbour, and that it favours engaging in dialogue and pursuing mutual interests for the benefit of both peoples, in accordance with the principle of friendly and good neighbourly relations between States. That notwithstanding, the Syrian Arab Republic once again strongly condemns the conduct of the Erdoğan regime and its flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, including the aggressions that the regime's forces have committed against the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of my country in recent years and the occupation by those forces of Syrian territory. Moreover, the Erdoğan regime has supported terrorist groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusra Front and associated entities and groups; robbed and plundered the wealth and natural resources the Syrian people; spread death and destruction; pursued a policy of forced displacement, demographic change and siege; used drinking water as a weapon against civilians; and, along with its terrorist organization proxies, deliberately burned large tracts of land that had been planted with wheat and barley. Those are all war crimes and crimes against humanity for which the Erdoğan regime must be held to account.

Everyone is aware that the violations committed by the Turkish regime have not been confined to my country. That regime has also interfered in the internal affairs of neighbouring and non-neighbouring States in a delusional quest to revive the Ottoman sultanate, and its criminal actions have extended to States such as Libya, to which and from that regime has transferred thousands of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as Arab States and neighbouring States, such as Armenia, Cyprus and Greece.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to stress that its position vis-à-vis the Turkish regime has nothing to do with Mr. Bozkır himself. Indeed, it



looks forward to his presidency of the General Assembly and trusts that he will fulfil his responsibilities in a professional, impartial and objective manner and will prevent the work of this important session, which marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, from being politicized or distorted to serve the agendas of the Turkish regime and its allies, which are based on aggression and intervention and thus incompatible with the principles and purposes of the Charter.

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

(Signed) Bashar **Ja'afari**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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