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The situation in the Middle East**

**Security Council
Seventy-sixth year**

**Letter dated 19 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of
Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the League of Arab States and in the capacity of Egypt as the previous Chair of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level (9 September–1 March 2021), I have the honour to transmit herewith resolution 8548 entitled “Iran’s interference in the Arab countries’ internal affairs”, adopted by the Council of the League at the ministerial level at its ordinary session held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 9 September 2020 during the presidency of Egypt (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed Edrees
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 19 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on the intersessional activities of the Secretariat,

Reaffirming the relevant statements and resolutions adopted by the Council at the summit and ministerial levels, the most recent of which were resolution 758 (30th ordinary session) adopted at the Tunis summit on 31 March 2019, resolution 8480 (153rd ordinary session) entitled “Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States” adopted by the Council at the ministerial level on 4 March 2020, and the final communiqué adopted at the extraordinary session of the League of States at the summit level in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on 30 May 2019,

Recalling the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 7 September 2020,

Decides

1. To emphasize that cooperative relations between the Arab States and the Islamic Republic of Iran must be based on the principles of good-neighbourly relations and refraining from the use or threat of force; to denounce Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, as that is a violation of the norms of international law and the principles of good-neighbourly relations and State sovereignty; and to call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from taking provocative actions that undermine confidence-building and threaten security and stability in the region;
2. To condemn strongly the continued deployment of drones and firing of Iranian-made ballistic missiles by Iranian-affiliated Houthi terrorist militias from Yemeni territory towards Saudi Arabia; to consider that action to be a blatant act of aggression against Saudi Arabia and a threat to Arab national security; to reaffirm the legitimate right of Saudi Arabia to defend its territory pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations; and to support any measures that Saudi Arabia decides to take, within the framework of international law, in response to Iranian violations;
3. To condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks on Saudi Aramco facilities on 14 September 2019, in which Iranian-made weapons were deployed against the Buqayq and Khurays oilfields; to welcome the report issued by the United Nations on 30 June 2020, in which it is emphasized that the Iranian regime bears responsibility for such acts of sabotage; to express its full support for Saudi Arabia and for all measures that it may take to secure its territory and confront attacks on its oil installations, as such attacks pose a threat to Arab national security; and to condemn the sabotage of commercial ships in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates and the Gulf of Oman; to emphasize the need for a strong and determined stand against any Iranian attempts to threaten the energy security, freedom and safety of offshore facilities in the Arabian Gulf and other maritime corridors, which pose a clear and serious threat to security and peace in the region and the world, and jeopardize the stability of the global economy;

4. To denounce and condemn ongoing interference in the internal affairs of Bahrain by Iran, which supports terrorism, trains terrorists, smuggles weapons and explosives, incites sectarian strife, continues to make statements at various levels aimed at undermining security, order and stability, and has established terrorist groups in Bahrain that are funded and trained by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq Brigades and Hizbullah terrorist organizations that are its proxies, as such conduct is contrary to the principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in internal affairs set out in the Charter of the United Nations and prescribed by international law; and to support all measures taken by Bahrain to counter terrorism and terrorist groups, with a view to safeguarding its security and stability;
5. To commend the efforts of the security agencies of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, which have succeeded in thwarting many terrorist plots and apprehending the members of the terrorist groups who were meant to carry out those plots and are supported by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the terrorist Hizbullah of Lebanon;
6. To condemn the policy of the Government of Iran and its ongoing interference in Arab affairs, which only fuels sectarian and religious conflicts; to underscore that it must refrain from supporting groups that fan such conflicts, particularly in the Arab States of the Gulf; to call on it to halt its support for and funding of militias and armed parties in Arab States, including, in particular, its interventions in Yemen and its support for and arming of those militias that are loyal to it and hostile to the legitimate Government of Yemen; and to underscore also that the Government of Iran must cease using Yemen as platform from which to launch missiles at Yemen's neighbours and threatening maritime navigation in the Bab al-Mandab Straits and the Red Sea, as such conduct has a detrimental effect on the security and stability of Yemen and its neighbouring States, as well as the entire region, and constitutes a clear violation of Security Council resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#);
7. To support fully all the steps taken by the State of Kuwait against the terrorist cell known as the "Abdali cell"; to stress the importance of the security and stability of Kuwait; and to reject Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, which continues despite the efforts made by Kuwait with its fellow members of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf to create channels of dialogue with Iran with a view to strengthening security and stability in the region;
8. To hold the terrorist Hizbullah of Lebanon, which is a partner in the Lebanese Government, responsible for supporting terrorism and terrorist groups in Arab States by providing them with advanced weapons and ballistic missiles; to condemn the hostile and inflammatory statements and heinous abuse levelled by the secretary-general of the group against Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Yemen, statements that constitute blatant interference in the internal affairs of those States and are intended to incite strife and hatred; and to emphasize that Hizbullah must stop spreading extremism and sectarianism, desist from interfering in the internal affairs of States, refrain from providing any support for terrorism or terrorists in the surrounding region, and put a stop to its inflammatory statements that exploit religious sentiment to incite sectarian strife and violence;
9. To ban Iranian-funded satellite channels that broadcast from Arab satellites because they threaten Arab national security by inciting sectarian, religious and racial strife, and to request the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of this decision with the relevant parties;
10. To condemn and deplore the inflammatory and hostile statements that Iranian officials continue to make against Arab States, and to call on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease making hostile statements or taking provocative

actions and to halt media campaigns against Arab States, as such conduct is blatant interference in the internal affairs of those States

11. To stress the importance of monitoring Iranian activities and attempts to undermine the security and stability of States in the region, and also the importance of reducing Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, and in particular in the case of Yemen, which is a Gulf-wide matter that concerns the national security of the States of the Gulf and of the Arab region as a whole;

12. To step up diplomatic efforts among Arab States that are members of regional and international organizations to highlight the practices of the Iranian regime, its support for violence, sectarianism and terrorism, and the threat it poses to regional and international security;

13. To work to design campaigns conducted via various media to expose the true militant face of the Iranian regime, the continued pursuit by that regime of a hostile and expansionist foreign policy, and its ongoing support for sectarianism, extremism and terrorism;

14. To condemn Iran's ongoing occupation of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa); and to express its support for all peaceful means and measures chosen by the United Arab Emirates to restore its sovereignty over the islands which, according to international law, are under occupation;

15. To underline the need for Iran to comply with Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#); the need for effective mechanisms to put in place to verify compliance with the relevant agreement, conduct inspections and carry out oversight functions; and the need for sanctions to be promptly and effectively reimposed should Iran fail to fulfil its obligations under the agreement; and the importance of Iran becoming a party to all regional treaties on nuclear safety and environmental protection;

16. To denounce Iran's intervention in the Syrian crisis, which has had serious repercussions for the future of Syria and its sovereignty, security, stability, national unity and territorial integrity, and to emphasize that such intervention is detrimental to efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis through peaceful means in accordance with the first Geneva conference;

17. To call upon Iran to remove its affiliated militias and armed personnel from all Arab States, and to stop supporting terrorist organizations and militias in the Arab States, particularly in Syria and Yemen;

18. To stress that the Arab States should continue to provide the League secretariat with periodic reports on Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States;

19. To request the Secretary-General to continue coordinating with the Foreign Ministers of the quadripartite Arab committee composed of the United Arab Emirates (Chair), Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, with a view to continuing to develop an Arab action plan to respond to Iranian interventions in the Arab region and mobilizing international support for Arab opposition to Iran's interventions;

20. To continue to keep relevant agencies of the United Nations informed of Iranian violations of Security Council resolutions [2216 \(2015\)](#) and [2231 \(2015\)](#), which pose a grave threat to Arab national security;

21. To continue to include an item entitled "Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States" on Arab platforms of cooperation with international and regional groupings;

22. To request the relevant organs of the United Nations to include the question of Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States on their respective agendas,

in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Article 2, paragraph 7, which prohibits interference in the internal affairs of States;

23. To request the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of the present resolution and report to the Council at its next ordinary session.

(Resolution 8548 – 154th ordinary session – second meeting – 9 September 2020)

- The Republic of Iraq formally expresses its reservations to paragraphs 4, 5 and 8 of the resolution “Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States” under agenda item 4. Iraq also expresses its reservation to the press statement issued by the quadripartite committee concerning the situation involving Iran and that country’s interference in the internal affairs of Arab States.
- Lebanon expresses its reservations to paragraphs 4, 5 and 8 of the draft resolution on Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States.

Lebanon is opposed to the reference to Hizbullah, which is described as a terrorist organization, and the reference to the fact that it is part of the Government. This designation is unacceptable because it is not sanctioned by the United Nations and is contrary to the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, particularly in view of the distinction made between resistance and terrorism. Hizbullah is a key player in Lebanon and represents a large swathe of the Lebanese people. It also has substantial representation in Parliament. We condemn any intervention in the internal affairs of Arab States. We requested that all references to Hizbullah be deleted, so that we might be able to endorse the entire resolution without any reservations.
