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Identical letters dated 19 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith an urgent letter regarding the unilateral coercive measures recently renewed and imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic by the Government of the United States of America and the European Union (see annex).

I look forward to receiving a timely response from the Secretary-General, and should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bashar Ja'afari Ambassador Permanent Representative





Annex to the identical letters dated 19 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from the Government of my country, the Syrian Arab Republic, and in reference to the official complaint that I addressed to you on 31 May 2020 (S/2020/471, dated 3 June 2020), and with regard to the issuance by the American Government and the European Union of two executive orders to renew and tighten the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian people, in parallel to the announcement issued by the United States of America on 17 June 2020 regarding the coming into effect of the so-called "Caesar Act", which includes imposing new unilateral economic, financial and banking measures against the Syrian Arab Republic, and against every "third party" seeking to participate in economic, commercial, investment and service activities for the benefit of the Syrian citizens inside Syria.

I would like to reiterate the official request of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic from the Secretary-General of the United Nations contained in the document referred to above (S/2020/471), to assign the competent legal and political entities in the United Nations Secretariat to prepare an urgent report that includes assessments and recommendations concerning:

(a) The extent of the consistency of acts and executive orders issued by the United States Government and the European Union to impose an economic blockade on the Syrian people with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law and relevant Security Council resolutions;

(b) The profound negative impacts of the unilateral American and European coercive measures on the social and economic aspects of the lives of the Syrian people, and on the capability of the United Nations to implement its humanitarian assistance programmes in Syria;

(c) The serious challenges resulting from the American and European unilateral coercive measures with regard to moving forward in the political process, which is supposed to be a Syrian one, led and owned by the Syrians themselves without external interference, and facilitated by the United Nations through the mission of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Geir Pedersen, who recognized the profound impacts of the unilateral coercive measures on the Syrian people in his briefing to the Security Council during its meeting on the political situation in the Syrian Arab Republic that took place on 16 June 2020.

Allow me to draw your attention to the fact that, during the above-mentioned meeting of the Security Council, I reiterated this official request of the Syrian Government, which is still looking forward to seeing a response from the Secretary-General, as soon as possible, and waiting to be informed of the measures taken in compliance with his position and mandate, and with his role in facilitating the political process in the Syrian Arab Republic as well.

(Signed) Bashar Ja'afari Ambassador Permanent Representative