



Security Council

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Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the amendment contained in document S/2020/690, proposed by the Russian Federation, to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684 and submitted by Belgium and Germany in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”. The voting on the proposal was carried out taking into account the extraordinary current circumstances relating to the Council’s practice and working methods and in accordance with the procedure set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (S/2020/253), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

The proposal received five votes in favour (China, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Viet Nam) and six against (Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America), with four abstentions (the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, the Niger and Tunisia). The proposal was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes.

Pursuant to that procedure, I enclose herewith copies of the related documents:

My letter dated 10 July 2020, addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (see annex I), putting to the vote the proposed amendment contained in S/2020/690 to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684 (see enclosures to annex I);

Letters received in reply from Security Council members indicating their national position on the proposed amendment (see annexes II to XVI);

Statements subsequently submitted by members of the Security Council providing explanations of their votes (see annex XVII).

This letter and its enclosures will be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Christoph Heusgen
President of the Security Council



Annex I

Letter dated 10 July 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

In accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the members of the Security Council in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, as set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to all members of the Council (S/2020/253), I would like to draw your attention to the following.

The members of the Council have considered a draft resolution, submitted by Belgium and Germany, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”. That draft resolution, contained in document S/2020/684 and enclosed herewith, has been put into blue (see enclosure I).

In that connection, I draw your attention to the attached letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation (S/2020/690) proposing an amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684 (see enclosure II).

Rule 33 of the Security Council’s provisional rules of procedure indicates, inter alia, that a motion to introduce an amendment shall have precedence “over all principal motions and draft resolutions relative to the subject before the meeting”.

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, and taking into account the extraordinary circumstances that currently obtain in connection with the Council’s practice and working methods, in particular the absence of “meetings” as referred to in rule 33, I hereby put the amendment proposed in the attached letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation (S/2020/690) to a vote. The voting period for this amendment will begin at 12 a.m. on 11 July 2020 and will expire at 12 p.m. on 11 July 2020.

Please submit your vote (in favour, against or abstention) on the proposed amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684 by sending the Director of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Secretariat (egian@un.org) a letter signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d’affaires a.i. within the 12-hour voting period set out above.

(Signed) **Christoph Heusgen**
President of the Security Council

Enclosure I

United Nations

S/2020/684



Security Council

Provisional
10 July 2020

Original: English

Belgium and Germany: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012), 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2175 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2209 (2015), 2235 (2015), 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015), 2268 (2016), 2286 (2016), 2332 (2016), 2336 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018), 2504 (2020) and its Presidential Statements of 3 August 2011 (S/PRST/2011/16), 21 March 2012 (S/PRST/2012/6), 5 April 2012 (S/PRST/2012/10), 2 October 2013 (S/PRST/2013/15), 24 April 2015 (S/PRST/2015/10), 17 August 2015 (S/PRST/2015/15), and 8 October 2019 (S/PRST/2019/12),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Determining that the devastating humanitarian situation in Syria continues to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region,

Underscoring that Member States are obligated under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations to accept and carry out the Council's decisions,

1. *Demands* the full and immediate implementation of all provisions of all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018) and 2504 (2020);

2. *Decides* to renew the decisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), for a period of twelve months, that is, until 10 July 2021, excluding the border crossings of Al-Ramtha, Al Yarubiyah and Bab al-Salam;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Council monthly and to provide a report on a regular basis, at least every 60 days, on the implementation of resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018), 2504 (2020) and this resolution and on compliance by all relevant parties in Syria and further requests the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports overall trends in United Nations cross-line and cross-border humanitarian access and detailed information on the humanitarian assistance delivered through United Nations humanitarian cross-border operations,

including on the number of beneficiaries, locations of aid deliveries at district-level and the volume and nature of items delivered;

4. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Enclosure II**Letter dated 10 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the draft resolution presented by Belgium and Germany regarding the cross-border mechanism of humanitarian deliveries to Syria does not reflect the principle concerns raised by the Russian delegation.

Therefore, I request that the following amendment to operative paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned draft resolution be put to the vote prior to the voting procedure on the entire draft:

To add to operative paragraph 3 “as well as information on direct and indirect humanitarian impact of unilateral coercive measures imposed on Syria”, so that operative paragraph 3 reads as follows:

“Requests the Secretary-General to brief the Council monthly and to provide a report on a regular basis, at least every 60 days, on the implementation of resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018), 2504 (2020) and this resolution and on compliance by all relevant parties in Syria and further requests the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports overall trends in United Nations cross-line and cross-border humanitarian access and detailed information on the humanitarian assistance delivered through United Nations humanitarian cross-border operations, including on the number of beneficiaries, locations of aid deliveries at district-level and the volume and nature of items delivered, as well as information on direct and indirect humanitarian impact of unilateral coercive measures imposed on Syria”.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Annex II

Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the President of the Security Council's letter of 10 July 2020 relating to the amendment proposed in the attached letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the draft resolution submitted by Belgium and Germany, in connection with the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East" (S/2020/690).

In accordance with the procedure set forth for the adoption of resolutions under the current extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, Belgium votes against the proposed amendment. At this stage, my delegation does not intend to deliver an explanation of vote.

(Signed) Marc **Pecsteen de Buytsverve**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

Annex III**Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I thank you and your team for the continued strong support in facilitating the voting procedure.

Please be kindly informed that China votes in favour on the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation, as contained in document S/2020/690, to the draft resolution presented by Belgium and Germany at 9 p.m. on 10 July in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East” (S/2020/684).

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

Annex IV

Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Special Envoy to the Security Council of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to your letter dated 10 July 2020 regarding the proposal by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation of an amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684 under the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”.

Upon instructions from my Government, the delegation of the Dominican Republic abstains in the voting on the above-mentioned proposed amendment.

(Signed) José **Singer Weisinger**

Ambassador

Special Envoy to the Security Council of the Dominican Republic

Annex V**Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to inform you, Sir, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, that my delegation votes against the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation, contained in document S/2020/690, to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East” (Syria cross-border humanitarian aid), to be adopted on 11 July 2020.

(Signed) **Sven Jürgenson**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations

Annex VI

Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

I refer to the letter from the German presidency of the Council dated 10 July 2020 calling on the members of the Council to vote on the amendment submitted by Russia, contained in document S/2020/690, to the draft resolution on cross-border humanitarian aid in Syria, under the item “The situation in the Middle East”, contained in document S/2020/684. France votes against.

(Signed) **Nicolas de Rivière**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

Annex VII**Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

It is my honour to write to you in response to the letter from the presidency of the Security Council dated 10 July 2020 initiating a written voting procedure, in line with the agreement reached between members of the Security Council.

The vote of the Federal Republic of Germany on the amendment forwarded by the Russian Federation (S/2020/690) to the draft resolution submitted by Germany and Belgium in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”, contained in document S/2020/684, is as follows.

The Federal Republic of Germany votes against the above-mentioned amendment.

(Signed) Christoph **Heusgen**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

Annex VIII

Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in reference to the letter by the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, in his capacity as the President of the Security Council, dated 10 July 2020, regarding the proposed amendment from the Russian Federation (S/2020/690) to the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East” (S/2020/684).

I hereby indicate that Indonesia abstains in the voting on said proposal.

(Signed) Dian Triansyah **Djani**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

Annex IX**Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing in response to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 10 July 2020 calling on the members of the Council to express their votes on the amendment submitted by the Russian Federation, contained in document S/2020/690, to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684, submitted by Belgium and Germany under the item “The situation in the Middle East”.

In accordance with the agreed temporary procedures for the adoption of resolutions during the coronavirus disease pandemic restrictions, I have the honour to indicate that the Republic of the Niger decides to abstain in the voting on said amendment.

(Signed) Abdou **Abarry**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations

Annex X

Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10 July 2020 on the beginning of the voting procedure for the amendment proposed by the Russian delegation to the draft resolution S/2020/684.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of resolutions of the Security Council being in place during the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Federation votes in favour of the amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Annex XI**Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the proposal submitted by the Russian Federation (S/2020/690) for an amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684.

In that respect, I wish to inform you that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines votes in favour of the above-mentioned amendment.

(Signed) Inga Rhonda **King**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the
United Nations

Annex XII

Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to your letter dated 10 July 2020 regarding the draft Security Council resolution concerning “The situation in the Middle East”, contained in document S/2020/684.

The delegation of the Republic of South Africa votes in favour of the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation contained in letter S/2020/690 in connection with the above-mentioned draft resolution.

(Signed) Jerry Matthews **Matjila**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa

Annex XIII**Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Further to the letter dated 10 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Permanent Representative of Germany (S/2020/690), in his capacity as President of the Security Council, containing the proposed Russian amendment to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution proposed by Belgium and Germany, as contained in document S/2020/684, I would like to inform you that Tunisia abstains on said amendment.

(Signed) **Kais Kabtani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

Annex XIV

Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letters from the President of the Security Council of 10 July 2020, the United Kingdom:

Votes against the Russian Federation's proposed amendment S/2020/690 to draft resolution S/2020/684, in connection with the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East";

Votes against the Russian Federation's proposed amendment S/2020/691 to draft resolution S/2020/684, in connection with the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East";

Votes against China's proposed amendment S/2020/692 to draft resolution S/2020/684, in connection with the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East".

(Signed) Jonathan **Allen**

Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations

Annex XV**Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On the amendment proposed to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684, as set out in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the President of the Security Council (S/2020/690), the United States of America votes against.

(Signed) **Kelly Craft**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the
United Nations

Annex XVI

Letter dated 11 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In reference to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 10 July 2020 relating to the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation, as contained in document S/2020/690, to the draft resolution under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”, contained in document S/2020/684, I would like to hereby inform you that Viet Nam votes in favour of said amendment.

(Signed) **Dang Dinh Quy**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations

Annex XVII**Statement by the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations**

The United Kingdom voted against the amendments proposed by the Russian Federation and China.

We deeply regret that these amendments needlessly delayed voting on the co-penholder's draft resolution, causing the cross-border humanitarian aid mandate to expire.

This followed a process in which Russian and China twice vetoed arrangements that have the backing of the United Nations Secretary-General and the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their partners.

Their vetoes and these delaying amendments are particularly irresponsible at a time when the world is coming together to fight the coronavirus disease pandemic and in the light of a Security Council resolution that called for the safe, unhindered and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the provision of related services by impartial humanitarian actors, in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

We note that Russia's latest veto was its sixteenth veto of a text related to the situation in Syria. Consistently giving in to the demands of the murderous Al-Assad regime is just one way in which the Russian Federation has shown a clear lack of humanity when it comes to the Syrian people.

It is our sincere hope that the Council can now move on expeditiously to vote on the co-penholder's draft resolution and make it possible for the United Nations and its implementing partners to continue to provide life-saving humanitarian aid to those who so desperately need it.
