



# Security Council

Distr.: General  
15 July 2020

Original: English

## **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/2020/691, 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 (S/2020/253) addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council, which was agreed in light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposal received eight votes in favour (China, Indonesia, the Niger, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia 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 one abstention (the Dominican Republic). 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 Security Council members (see annex I), putting to the vote the proposed amendment contained in S/2020/691 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);

A statement subsequently submitted by a member of the Security Council providing an explanation of its vote (see annex XVII).

This letter and its enclosures will be issued as an official 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 COVID-19 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/2020/691), 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/2020/691), 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 for humanitarian deliveries to Syria does not reflect the principle concerns raised by the Russian delegation.

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

To add, following preambular paragraph 3 bis, “*Recognizing* improvement of cross-line deliveries of UN humanitarian assistance and encouraging all relevant parties to further increase cross-line humanitarian operations to all parts of Syria.”

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia  
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, 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/2020/691).

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 Buytswerve**

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 of the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation, as contained in S/2020/691, 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”.

*(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 addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to your letters dated 10 July 2020 regarding the proposal by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation of two amendments 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 amendments.

(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/2020/691, 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 calling on the members of the Council to vote on the amendment submitted by Russia, contained in document S/2020/691, 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 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/2020/691) 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 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, dated 10 July 2020, regarding the proposed amendment from the Russian Federation (S/2020/691) to the draft resolution under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East” (S/2020/684).

I hereby indicate that Indonesia votes in favour of 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/2020/691, 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 vote in favour of 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**

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 a letter by the President of the Security Council of 27 March 2020 (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/2020/691) 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/2020/691, in connection with the above-mentioned draft resolution.

(Signed) Jerry Matthews **Matjila**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

### **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, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, and containing the proposed amendment (third preambular paragraph *bis*) to the draft resolution proposed by Belgium and Germany, as contained in document S/2020/684, I would like to inform you that Tunisia votes in favour of 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 dated 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 the draft resolution S/2020/684 in connection with the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East".

*(Signed)* Jonathan **Allen**  
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 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2020/691), 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/2020/691, to the draft resolution under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”, as 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.

---