

**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/2020/692, proposed by China to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684, submitted by Belgium and Germany in connection with the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”. Voting on the proposal was carried out taking into account the extraordinary current circumstances relating to the Security Council’s practice and working methods and in accordance with the procedure set out in the letter by the President of the Security Council addressed to Permanent Representatives of Security Council members dated 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

The proposed amendment received eight votes in favour — China, Indonesia, the Niger, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia and Viet Nam — six votes against — Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America — and one abstention — the Dominican Republic. The proposal was not carried, 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 document S/2020/692, to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684, as (see enclosures to annex I);

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

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

This letter and its annexes 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 Secretary-General and 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, and as reflected 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, has been put into blue (see enclosure I).

In this connection, I draw your attention to the attached letter from the Permanent Representative of China (S/2020/692, see enclosure II), proposing an amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684.

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 above-mentioned proposed amendment to a vote. The voting period for this amendment will begin at 12 a.m. on 11 July 2020 and 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 a letter signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d’affaires a.i. within the 12-hour voting period set out above to the Director of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Secretariat (egian@un.org).

(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 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to express our concern that the draft resolution proposed by Belgium and Germany regarding the mandate renewal of cross-border mechanism in Syria (S/2020/684) does not reflect our opinion on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the humanitarian situation in Syria.

Despite our disappointment, in the spirit of compromise, I refer to the agreed language contained in the eighth preambular paragraph of Security Council resolution 2532 (2020) and request that the following amendment to the above-mentioned draft be put to a vote prior to the voting procedure on the draft itself:

Add a new paragraph after the second preambular paragraph as follows:

“Recognizing efforts and measures proposed by the Secretary-General concerning the response to the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to conflict-affected countries, in particular his appeal for an immediate global ceasefire.”

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of
China to the United Nations

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

I refer to the letter from the President of the Security Council of 10 July relating to the amendment proposed in the letter from the Permanent Representative of China to the President of the Security Council (S/2020/692).

In accordance with the procedure set forth for the adoption of resolutions under the current extraordinary circumstance caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, I am pleased to indicate that Belgium votes against the amendment proposed by China on the draft resolution submitted by Belgium and Germany in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”. 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 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 its proposed amendment (S/2020/692) to the draft resolution presented by Belgium and Germany, 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 addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to your letter dated 10 July 2020 regarding the proposal from the Permanent Representative of China to amend the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684, relating to the agenda item entitled “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 that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, my delegation votes against the amendment to draft resolution S/2020/684 proposed by China in letter S/2020/692, in connection with the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East” (Syria cross-border humanitarian aid), to be adopted on 11 July.

(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]

In reference to the letter dated 10 July 2020 from the German presidency of the Security Council, inviting the members of the Council to vote on the amendment submitted by China (S/2020/692) to the draft resolution on cross-border humanitarian aid in Syria under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East” (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 dated 10 July 2020 from the presidency of the Security Council, initiating a written voting procedure in line with the agreement reached among members of the Security Council.

The vote of the Federal Republic of Germany on the amendment proposed by China (S/2020/692) to the draft resolution submitted by Germany and Belgium in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”, as 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 dated 10 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, regarding the amendment proposed by the Permanent Representative of China (S/2020/692) to the draft resolution under the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East” (S/2020/684).

I hereby indicate that Indonesia votes in favour of the proposed amendment.

(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 dated 10 July 2020 from the President of the Security Council, calling on the members of the Council to vote on the proposed amendments by China (S/2020/692) to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684, submitted by Belgium and German under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middles East”.

In accordance with the temporary procedure for the adoption of resolutions agreed in the light of the coronavirus disease restrictions, I have the honour to indicate the Republic of the Niger votes in favour of the 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, initiating the voting procedure on the amendment proposed by the Chinese delegation (S/2020/692) to draft resolution S/2020/684.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of Security Council resolutions during 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 draft resolution 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 China (S/2020/692) 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 on the agenda item entitled “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 delegation of China in the letter contained in document S/2020/692, 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 People's Republic of China to the Permanent Representative of Germany (S/2020/692) in his capacity as President of the Security Council, and containing the proposed amendment to be added after the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution submitted by Belgium and Germany, as contained in document S/2020/684, I would like to inform you that Tunisia votes in favour of the 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 dated 10 July from the President of the Security Council, 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".

Please find our explanation of vote attached (see annex XVII).

(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 proposed amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/684, as set out in the letter from the Permanent Representative of China in his letter to the Council (S/2020/692), 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 dated 10 July 2020 from the President of the Security Council concerning the amendment proposed by the People's Republic of China, as contained in document S/2020/692, 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 the amendment.

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

Annex XVII

Statement by the Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations, Jonathan Allen

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

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

That followed a process in which Russia and China twice vetoed arrangements that have the backing of the United Nations Secretary-General and 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-penholders' 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.
