

Distr.: General 25 March 2021

Original: English

Identical letters dated 22 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In the capacity of the State of Qatar as the current Chair of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the League of Arab States and Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations (see annex) transmitting the resolutions adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level at its 155th ordinary session, held in Cairo on 3 March 2021.

It would be highly appreciated if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani** Ambassador Permanent Representative



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Annex to the identical letters dated 22 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

In keeping with the practice followed by the Group of Arab States whereby the chair of each ministerial or summit session of the Council of the League of Arab States is charged with transmitting the relevant resolutions to the appropriate United Nations bodies by means of an official memorandum or letter from the Permanent Observer Mission of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, and in accordance with article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the resolutions adopted by the Council of the League at the ministerial level at its ordinary session held in Cairo on 3 March 2021 (see enclosure):

1. Resolution 8599: Follow-up to political developments concerning the question of Palestine, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the promotion of the Arab Peace Initiative

2. Resolution 8600: Developments and Israeli violations in the occupied city of Jerusalem

3. Resolution 8613: Adoption of a unified Arab position regarding the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq

4. Resolution 8614: Turkish interference in the internal affairs of member States

5. Resolution 8619: Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States

6. Resolution 8620: Establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction

7. Resolution 8632: Cooperation between the League of Arab States and the Security Council.

In accordance with the instructions of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States in that regard, I should be grateful if you would transmit the present letter and its enclosure to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council for issuance as a document of the United Nations.

> (Signed) Maged Abdelfattah Abdelaziz Ambassador Head of the Observer Mission, New York

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]

Question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict

Follow-up to political developments concerning the question of Palestine, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the promotion of the Arab Peace Initiative

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,

Recalling all its previous resolutions at the summit level on political developments concerning the question of Palestine, the most recent of which were the resolutions of the Tunis Summit (30th ordinary session) in 2019, the resolutions adopted at the level of ministers for foreign affairs, the most recent of which were the resolutions of the 154th ordinary session held in September 2020, the resolution adopted at the extraordinary session of 8 February 2021, and the resolutions adopted by the Council at the level of permanent representatives,

Recalling the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives held on 1 March 2021,

Decides

1. To reaffirm the centrality of the Palestinian cause for the entire Arab nation, the Arab identity of occupied East Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, and the right of the State of Palestine to exercise absolute sovereignty over the entirety of its territory that was occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, as well as over its airspace, maritime space and territorial waters, and over its natural resources and its borders with neighbouring States;

2. To reaffirm its commitment to peace as the strategic choice for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict under international law and the authoritative international resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1515 (2003) and 2334 (2016), and the entirety of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, in which it is stated that the precondition for comprehensive peace and normalized relations with Israel is that Israel should end its occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories that have been occupied since 1967 including East Jerusalem, and recognize the State of Palestine and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to self-determination and the right of Palestine refugees to return or compensation, and that a just solution to the Palestinian question should be found in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III);

3. To emphasize that any peace plan inconsistent with the terms of reference for the Middle East peace process will be rejected and cannot succeed; to reject any political or financial pressure brought to bear on the Palestinian people or its leadership in an attempt to impose unjust solutions to the question of Palestine;

4. To affirm that the implementation by the Israeli occupation Government of its plans to annex any part of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 would constitute yet another war crime to add to the litany of atrocities perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people and to its blatant violations of international law and the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations; to call on the international community to exert pressure and impose punitive and deterrent measures on the occupying Government in order to stop it from implementing its annexation plans and all other aggressive settlement activities;

5. To support the peace plan put forward by His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, before the General Assembly on 25 September 2020; to work with the international Quartet and international stakeholders towards establishing a multilateral international mechanism to oversee a credible peace process within a specific time frame and under international oversight. That process should include convening an international conference to relaunch the negotiations on the basis of international law and resolutions, the principle of land for peace and the two-State solution, resulting in an end to the Israeli occupation of the Arab territory occupied in 1967 and the independence of the State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital;

6. To reiterate that it condemns Israel's colonialist settlement activities and policies, and to call on the Security Council to assume its responsibility for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), hold the perpetrators of breaches accountable, and confront and curb settlement expansion, the construction of the annexation and expansion wall, the forced displacement of Palestinian inhabitants, and the destruction of their property; to emphasize that a boycott is one effective and legitimate way to resist and bring an end to the Israeli occupation and its colonialist system; to call on all States, institutions, companies and individuals to cease all forms of direct and indirect interaction with the Israeli colonialist occupation system and its settlements, which are illegal under international law, including by prohibiting illegal Israeli settlers from entering States;

7. To reaffirm its refusal to recognize Israel as a Jewish State; to condemn the systematic and racist Israeli policy of adopting laws that undermine the historic rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of refugees to return and selfdetermination, and discriminate against Palestinians on grounds of religion and race; and to commend and support the resilience of Palestinians within the 1948 borders;

8. To call on world States and international organizations to assume their responsibility to confront the policies, laws and practices enacted by Israel, the occupying Power, with a view to undermining the prospects for an independent State of Palestine, stymying a peaceful two-State solution and enforcing an apartheid system against the Palestinian people in a violation of the relevant principles of international law;

9. To endorse and support the request of the State of Palestine to be granted full membership in the United Nations; to call on those States that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to do so; to endorse and support the right of the State of Palestine to join international organizations and ratify instruments with a view to bolstering its legal and international status and asserting its independence and sovereignty over its territory, which is occupied;

10. Welcomes the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court, in which it states that the territorial jurisdiction of the Court in Palestine extends to the Palestinian territory that has been occupied by Israel since 1967, namely, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; urges the Court swiftly to open a criminal prosecution for war crimes and crimes against humanity that have been, and continue to be, committed by Israeli against the defenceless Palestinian people, with a view to holding accountable the war criminals in the Government and occupation army and ensuring that they do not escape with impunity;

11. To emphasize the need to implement the resolutions of the Council of the League aimed at confronting the actions taken by Israel against the Palestinian cause and Arab national security in Africa; to strengthen cooperation with the African Union to support the Palestinian cause and relevant resolutions in international forums; to request that the Arab ministerial committee on the issue continue to implement the plan developed for that purpose;

12. To call for continued Arab and Islamic joint action at the level of Governments, parliaments and associations in support of the Palestinian cause; to renew its request that the Secretary-General of the League consult and coordinate with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation with regard to various issues and measures involving the Palestinian cause and mechanisms for implementing the relevant Arab and Islamic resolutions;

13. To reject any partition of Palestinian territory; to emphasize the need to confront Israeli plans to separate the Gaza Strip from the rest of the territory of the State of Palestine; and to reject any project for a Palestinian State with provisional borders;

14. To emphasize its respect for the legitimacy of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas; praise the efforts of President Abbas to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation; to welcome his issuing a decree calling for elections for the Palestinian legislature and presidency and for the National Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization; to call on the Palestinian factions and forces to facilitate and ensure the success of the Palestinian democratic process as reflected in those elections, until national reconciliation is achieved and the provisions of the final communiqué of the Palestinian national dialogue held in Cairo on 8 and 9 February 2021 are respected; to commend the efforts of Egypt to foster Palestinian national reconciliation; to call on Egypt to continue those efforts;

15. To call on the international community to press Israel, the occupying Power, to refrain from hindering the Palestinian general elections in East Jerusalem and the remainder of occupied Palestinian territory;

16. To commend the efforts of Tunisia, the non-permanent Arab member of the Security Council, to follow up on the developments regarding the Palestinian question in the Security Council;

17. To welcome the intensive efforts made by the Egypt and Jordan, in cooperation with France and Germany, to restart the negotiation process on the basis of the recognized international terms of reference; to express its support for such efforts on the grounds that the Palestinian cause is a pivotal one for Arab States, and that stability in the region can be achieved only against the backdrop of a just and comprehensive peace based on a just settlement that would fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people;

18. To request that the Groups of Arab States in the Human Rights Council and the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) respectively continue to mobilize to support and follow up implementation of the present resolution and of resolutions concerning Palestine adopted by the two bodies;

19. To request that the Group of Arab States in the United Nations take the following actions:

• Garner support for resolutions on the Palestinian question in the General Assembly, and follow up efforts in the Security Council to fulfil the latter's responsibility to maintain international peace and security, end the occupation and bring a stop to all illegal Israeli practices;

- Consult and take the necessary measures to confront the risk that the Israeli occupation authorities could illegally annex parts of the territory of the occupied West Bank;
- Follow up implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) concerning illegal Israeli settlement activities;
- Follow up actions to ensure that the State of Palestine gains full membership in the United Nations;
- Take all necessary measures to confront any attempt on the part of Israel to be a candidate for membership of, or positions in, United Nations bodies or committees;
- Confront attempts to undermine resolutions concerning the question of Palestine and East Jerusalem;

20. To request that the Secretary-General follow up implementation of the present resolution and report to the Council at its next session on measures taken in that regard.

(Resolution 8599—155th ordinary session — second meeting — 3 March 2021)

Question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict

Developments and Israeli violations in the occupied city of Jerusalem

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 all its previous resolutions at all levels, namely the summit level, the ministerial level and the level of permanent representatives, concerning developments and Israeli violations in the occupied city of Jerusalem,

Recalling the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 1 March 2021,

Decides

1. To reiterate that East Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine, and to reject any endeavour to diminish Palestinian sovereignty rights over it;

2. To condemn strongly, and reject categorically, all the systematic and illegal Israeli policies and plans to legitimize the annexation of the Holy City, misrepresent its Arab identity, change its demographic composition, undermine the demographic and physical contiguity of its people, and isolate it from its Palestinian environment; to emphasize that such policies, plans and practices, including those provided for in the American-Israeli "deal of the century", contravene the relevant international resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 252 (1967), 267 (1969), 476 (1980) and 478 (1980);

3. To salute and support the resilience of the Palestinian people and institutions in the occupied city of Jerusalem as they confront the systematic Israeli

policies aimed at altering the demographic, legal and historic situation of the city and its holy sites, and as they defend the city and its Islamic and Christian holy sites;

4. To reject and condemn all violations perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in Islamic and Christian holy sites and, in particular, attempts to alter the historic and legal situation in place in the holy Aqsa Mosque, divide it spatially and temporally and turn away or undermine the freedom of Muslim worshippers, take control of Jordanian Islamic religious endowments in occupied Jerusalem, attack staff managing the endowments and prevent them from doing their jobs, attempting to impose Israeli law on the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif, and conduct Israeli excavations under the site;

5. Strongly condemn the constant raids and acts of desecration carried out by extremist settlers and Israeli officials in the Aqsa Mosque with the support, protection and participation of the Israeli occupying Government; to warn against the tendency of the so-called Supreme Court of Israel to allow Jewish settlers and squatters to pray at the Aqsa Mosque, which they had previously raided and desecrated; to warn that such acts of aggression will have grave repercussions for international peace and security;

6. To call on Member States to support the efforts of the State of Palestine in UNESCO to preserve the cultural and historic heritage of Palestine, particularly in Jerusalem, and its close cooperation with Jordan to secure the adoption of resolutions by UNESCO asserting, in particular, that the terms Aqsa Mosque and Haram al-Sharif are synonymous, that the Bab al-Magharibah hill is an integral part of the Aqsa Mosque, that the Jerusalem Awqaf and Aqsa Mosque Affairs Administration of Jordan is the sole authority empowered to manage the Haram, maintain it, preserve it and regulate entry to it;

7. To reiterate its condemnation and rejection of the systematic and illegal Israeli measures to undermine the churches, and weaken the Christian presence in the Holy City in a flagrant violation of the legal and historical situation in place in the city's holy sites and a serious breach of the relevant international conventions and obligations;

8. To condemn Israel, the occupying Power, for confiscating the land of Jerusalemites and illegally demolish their homes, including the frenzied Israeli campaign recently launched by the occupation authorities with a view to demolishing and confiscating residential buildings in various areas and neighbourhoods of the city of Jerusalem, the better to promote its settlement plans both within and beyond the old city, not to mention the bulldozing of thousands of dunams to implement the so-called Greater Jerusalem project, including the E1 settlement project, and to build a ring of settlements that would disrupt Palestinian geographic contiguity in order to take control of those territories;

9. To condemn the systematic Israeli policies aimed at misrepresenting and altering the Arab and Islamic culture and identity of the city of Jerusalem, notably by closing Palestinian institutions, attempting to steal Palestinian heritage and endeavouring to change curricula in Jerusalem, including by imposing financial and administrative sanctions on Palestinian schools that rail to comply with that malign policy;

10. To call on the international community to press the Israeli occupation authorities to end the policy of house arrest that they enforce broadly and systematically against children in the city of Jerusalem with a view to instilling fear and mental illness in Palestinian children and destroying their future;

11. To strongly condemn the decisions taken by Kosovo and Czechia, in violation of international law, to open diplomatic missions in Jerusalem, and to call

on Arab States that maintain diplomatic relations with them to reassess those relations accordingly; to reject and condemn once again any unilateral decision to breach the legal status of the city of Jerusalem, including the decision of the former United States Administration to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the occupying Power, and to transfer its embassy to that city, and including also the opening of any offices or diplomatic missions in that city, as such actions are an attack on the rights of the Palestinian people, an act of provocation against the Islamic and Christian Arab nation; to consider any such decision to be null and void and in serious breach of the International law, the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the opinion of the International Court of Justice on the separation wall, not to mention a dangerous precedent inviting further violations of international law and legitimacy, something that would undermine efforts to achieve peace and endanger international peace and security;

12. To reiterate that States members are determined to take the necessary practical measures at the political, diplomatic and economic levels, in accordance with the resolutions adopted at successive summits and sessions of the League at the ministerial level, in order to confront any decision taken by any State to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the occupying Power, or to transfer its embassy to that city, or to undermine its legal status; to follow up the resolutions of the Council of the League concerning actions taken by certain States that undermine that legal status; and to follow up also the international media plan and the integrated plan of action prepared by the Secretariat of the League for that purpose;

13. To call on all States to comply with Security Council resolutions 476 (1980) and 478 (1980) and General Assembly resolution ES-10/19, by which the Assembly states that decisions and actions which purport to have altered the character, status or demographic composition of the Holy City of Jerusalem have no legal effect, are null and void and must be rescinded in compliance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council; calls on all States to refrain from the establishment of diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem; and stresses that Jerusalem is a final status issue to be resolved through negotiations in line with relevant United Nations resolutions;

14. To endorse and support the decisions and measures taken by the State of Palestine to confront any State that recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of the occupying Power, including the filing of claims before the International Court of Justice against any State that violates international agreements and laws in such a manner as to undermine the legal status of Jerusalem; to work with the State of Palestine towards realizing the objective of those decisions at all levels;

15. To condemn Israeli measures applying a racist law intended to undermine the rights of Palestinian Jerusalemites to their own city by rescinding the identity cards of thousands of Palestinian Jerusalemites who live in or beyond the suburbs of occupied Jerusalem; to condemn the resumed enforcement of the so-called Absentee Property Act intended to confiscate the real estate of Jerusalemites; to call on the international community to press Israel, the occupying Power, to put a stop to its racist decisions and laws aimed at emptying the city of its original inhabitants, forcibly displacing them from the city, imposing exorbitant taxes on them, and denying them building permits;

16. To condemn Israel's arbitrary imprisonment and house arrest of prominent Palestinian legal persons in the city of Jerusalem and the continued closure of national institutions in Jerusalem; to demand the reopening of those institutions, foremost among them Orient House and the Chamber of Commerce, in order for them to provide services to Jerusalemite citizens and protect the Palestinian presence in the Holy City; 17. To call on all States to implement the resolutions of the United Nations and UNESCO concerning the question of Palestine, including those of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, which has stated that the Aqsa Mosque / Haram al-Sharif is a Muslim holy site of worship and an integral part of a World Heritage Site, and has condemned the illegal Israeli attacks thereon;

18. To stress that the purpose of the call to visit the city of Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy sites, including the Aqsa Mosque, is to break the Israeli embargo imposed on it, and to protect it from the plans of extremist Jewish groups;

19. To reiterate, in that regard, that the State of Palestine has sovereignty over the city and its holy sites, and that Jordan is the guardian of the Islamic and Christian holy sites therein;

20. To emphasize that the Arab and Islamic worlds are collectively responsible for Jerusalem; to call on all Arab and Islamic States and organizations, Arab funds, and civil society organizations to provide the necessary funding to implement the projects set out in the Strategic Sectoral Plan for Jerusalem (2018–2022) proposed by the State of Palestine with a view to saving the Holy City, protecting its holy sites, shoring up the resilience of its inhabitants, and confronting Israeli plans and practices intended to Judaize it and expel its inhabitants; to work to continue implementing the resolution to support the Palestinian economy that was adopted at the fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in Beirut on 20 January 2019, which provides for an Arab-Islamic intervention mechanism to implement the Plan in coordination with the State of Palestine;

21. To call once again on Arab capitals to twin with the city of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine; and to call on governmental and non-governmental educational, cultural, economic, social and health institutions to form partnerships with their counterparts in Jerusalem, in order to support occupied Jerusalem and the resilience of its population and institutions;

22. To commend the efforts of His Majesty King Abdullah Bin al-Hussein of Jordan, as guardian of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem; to reject once again all attempts by Israel, the occupying Power, to encroach upon that Hashemite guardianship; commend Jordan's role in caring for, protecting and maintaining the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem under the historic guardianship of Jordan, which is reaffirmed in the agreement signed on 31 March 2013 between King Abdullah and President Mahmoud Abbas; to express support for the role of the Jerusalem Awqaf and Aqsa Mosque Affairs Administration of Jordan in protecting the Haram from Israeli breaches and attacks;

23. To commend the efforts of King Mohammed VI of Morocco as head of the Al-Quds Committee, to defend the Holy City and support the resilience of the Palestinian people; to commend the work of the Bayt Mal-al-Quds Agency, an affiliate of the Al-Quds Committee;

24. To commend the efforts of the Custodian of the Two Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, to support the occupied city of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, and to strengthen the resilience of its inhabitants;

25. To commend the efforts of Algeria to support the Palestinian cause, whether through its historic political positions or through its commitment to provide financial support to the budget of the State of Palestine;

26. To commend all Arab efforts to preserve the city of East Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, and its Arab, Islamic and Christian identity, holy

sites, and cultural and human heritage; and confront Israel's systematic policies of settlement, Judaization and falsification;

27. To commend the charitable programme launched in the city of Jerusalem in memory of the late Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, and to remember and commend his humanitarian and charitable initiatives and his consistent position in support of the Palestinian cause and the right of the Palestinian people to the occupied city of Jerusalem;

28. To commend the efforts of the Arab Parliament to support the Palestinian cause and protect the legal, spiritual and historic status of the occupied city of Jerusalem; to call on Arab parliaments to mobilize alongside other parliaments around the world;

29. To request that the Group of Arab States in New York continue pursuing its efforts to reveal the threat that Israel's alarming Judaization practices and measures pose to the holy Aqsa Mosque, and the grave repercussions of those practices and measures for international peace and security;

30. To request that the Secretary-General follow up implementation of the present resolution and report to the Council at its next ordinary session on measures taken in that regard.

(Resolution 8600 — 155th ordinary session — second meeting — 3 March 2021)

Arab affairs and national security

Adoption of a unified Arab position regarding the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq

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,
- Note 3/*jim*/4/1049 of 28 February 2021 submitted by the Permanent Mission of Iraq,

Reaffirming all Council resolutions adopted at the summit level, the most recent of which is resolution 759 (30th ordinary session), adopted on 31 March 2019 at the Tunis summit, and its resolutions adopted at the ministerial level, the most recent of which is resolution 8542 (153rd ordinary session), adopted on 9 September 2020,

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 reaffirm the provisions of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League at the ministerial level, adopted by the Council at its extraordinary session on 24 December 2015, condemning the incursion of Turkish forces into Iraqi territory, an act that constitutes a violation of the sovereignty of Iraq and a threat to Arab national security, and demanding that the Turkish Government withdraw its forces immediately and unconditionally;

2. To denounce and condemn the repeated aggressions that Turkey has committed recently against Iraqi territory, killing and wounding several Iraqi officers,

soldiers and civilian and causing damage to villages and civilian facilities in the area; to consider those actions to be a violation of the sovereignty and security of Iraq, the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and good neighbourly relations; and to reiterate its support for any measures that Iraq might take to maintain its security and sovereignty;

3. To call upon the States members of the League, in their bilateral relations, to request the Turkish Government to withdraw its forces from Iraqi territory in implementation of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League, adopted at its extraordinary session of 24 December 2015, and to raise the matter in their communications with Turkey;

4. To call upon States members to request the Turkish Government to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq and to stop taking such provocative actions, which undermine confidence-building and threaten the security and stability of the region;

5. To reiterate its support for the Iraqi Government in any measures it may take in accordance with the relevant principles of international law to ensure that the Turkish Government withdraws its forces from Iraqi territory, with a view to consolidating the sovereignty of the Government of Iraq over its entire territory;

6. To request that the Secretary-General of the League continue to monitor implementation of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League, adopted at the extraordinary session of 24 December 2015, and submit a detailed report to the Council at its next ordinary session;

7. To reiterate that the Arab member of the Security Council should continue to press for the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Iraqi territory and take all necessary measures until such time as those forces have fully withdrawn.

(Resolution 8613 — 155th ordinary session — second meeting — 3 March 2021)

• Qatar enters a reservation to the present resolution.

Arab affairs and national security

Turkish 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,
- Council of the League resolutions 8518, adopted by the Council in March 2020 at its 153rd ordinary session at the ministerial level, and 8543, adopted by the Council on 9 September 2020 at its 154th ordinary session, concerning Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, adopted on 4 March 2020 at the 153rd ordinary session of the Council at the ministerial level,
- Council of the League resolutions 8413, adopted by the Council on 10 September 2019 at its 152nd ordinary session, 8475, adopted by the Council on 4 March 2020 at its 153rd ordinary session, and 8542, adopted by the Council on 9 September 2020 at its 154th ordinary session, entitled "Adoption of a unified Arab position regarding the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq",
- Council of the League resolution 8537, adopted by the Council on 9 September 2019 at its 154th ordinary session at the ministerial level, concerning developments in the situation in Syria,
- Council of the League resolution 8454, adopted by the Council on 12 October 2019 at its extraordinary session at the ministerial level, concerning the Turkish aggression on Syria,
- Council of the League resolutions 8471, adopted by the Council on 4 March 2020 at its 153rd ordinary session, and 8538, adopted by the Council of the League on 9 September at its 154th ordinary session at the ministerial level, concerning developments in the situation in Libya,
- Council of the League resolution 8456, adopted by the Council on 31 October 2019 at its extraordinary session at the level of permanent representatives, concerning developments in the situation in Libya,

Taking note of the briefing provided by the ministers, as heads of delegation, and the Secretary-General,

Decides

1. To reaffirm the provisions of the resolutions of the Council of the League at the ministerial level condemning Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States; to stress that relations between Arab States and the Turkey must be based on the principles of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs;

2. To call on the States members of the League to request the Turkish Government to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Arab States and to stop taking such provocative actions, which undermine confidence-building and threaten the security and stability of the region;

3. To reject and condemn the military intervention by Turkey in Libya and the transfer by Turkey of foreign terrorist fighters to Libyan territory, as those actions constitute a direct threat to Arab national security and international peace and security, and a clear violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions; 4. To reject and condemn the Turkish aggression against Syrian territory, as that constitutes a clear violation of the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and of the Security Council resolutions in which the Council calls for preserving the unity and independence of Syria, including, in particular resolution 2254 (2015); and to consider that aggression to be a direct threat to Arab national security and international peace and security;

5. To condemn the Turkish military presence on the territory of several Arab States; to call upon Turkey to withdraw all its forces that are present in the territories of Arab States and refrain from supporting extremist militias in Arab States;

6. To condemn Turkey for hosting extremist terrorist groups, providing them with safe haven on Turkish territory, and continuously funding media that invite violence and undermine the security and stability of Arab States;

7. To request the Secretary-General of the League to contact the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in order to apprise him of the substance of the present resolution and to it have distributed to the members of the United Nations as a document of the United Nations;

8. To instruct the Group of Arab States in New York to continue examining means of addressing the Turkish aggression against Arab States at various United Nations bodies, in particular the Security Council, and to present its recommendations in that regard to the Council of the League;

9. To welcome the second meeting of the Arab ministerial committee on Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States and the transmission of its recommendations to the Council of the League at the ministerial level;

10. To step up diplomatic efforts among Arab States that are members of regional and international organizations to highlight the aggressive practices of the Turkish against certain Arab States and the threat it poses to regional and international security;

11. To request the Secretary-General of the League to follow up implementation of the resolution and report to the Council of the League at its next ordinary session.

(Resolution 8614 — 155th ordinary session — second meeting — 3 March 2021)

- Somalia reaffirms the reservation which it expressed at the 154th session.

- Qatar reaffirms its consistent position that the sovereignty of Arab States must be preserved. However, the fact that only Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States has been condemned amounts to a policy of double standards. There has been no such condemnation when Arab States interfere in the internal affairs of other States; instead, the Council of the League has been silent. Accordingly, Qatar expresses its reservation with regard to the resolution and asks that its reservation be annexed thereto.
- Djibouti expresses its reservation with regard to the resolution.
- Libya expresses its reservation with regard to the text of the resolution entitled "Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States".

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 8548 (154th ordinary session) entitled "Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States" adopted by the Council at the ministerial level on 9 September 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,

Taking note of the fifteenth meeting of the ministerial committee on following up developments in the crisis with Iran and the means to confront its interference in the internal affairs of Arab States,

Taking note of the briefing provided by heads of delegation and the Secretary-General,

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 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;

3. To condemn strongly the continued deployment of drones and firing of Iranian-made ballistic and other 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;

4. 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; 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;

5. 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 by 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;

6. 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;

7. To support fully all the steps taken by 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 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;

9. 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;

10. 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 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;

11. 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;

12. 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; 13. 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 curbing 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; to underscore that Iran must stop supporting and arming the militias that are loyal to it and hostile to the legitimate Government of Yemen; 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);

14. To condemn the spoiler role of Iran in encouraging Houthi militias to rebel against the State and its institutions, destroy the social fabric, persist with its military attacks on civilian targets and defenceless civilians; providing the Houthi militias with smuggled weapons and shipments of ballistic missiles, drones and funds for training, something that has prolonged the war, exacerbated the suffering of the Yemeni people, undermined all United Nations peace initiatives; and pursuing a policy of escalation and prevarication in respect of the Yemeni crisis, including by appointing a so-called ambassador to the Houthi militias and a military commander in Sana'a – a step intended to undermine any effort to move towards a political solution in Yemen – in addition to taking control of Yemeni, as such actions set a dangerous precedent in international relations, constitute a flagrant violation of the rules of international law, and must be condemned by the Security Council in the interests of protecting the rules that underpin international relations;

15. 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;

16. 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;

17. 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;

18. 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;

19. To emphasize that the concerned Arab States must be involved in any international negotiations concerning its nuclear programme and its endeavours to undermine security and stability in the region, in the light of the concerns expressed by Arab States in that regard;

20. To emphasize that any agreement with Iran must include stronger provisions regarding its programmes involving the supply of ballistic and other

missiles and explosive-laden drones to terrorist militias, particularly the Houthi militias, and its destabilizing activities;

21. To call on the international community to extend the weapons ban on Iran and emphasize that lifting the international sanctions on Iran would lead to more destruction;

22. 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;

23. 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, in addition to the Secretary-General) 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;

24. 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;

25. 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;

26. To request the Group of Arab States in New York to take the necessary action to transmit the present resolution to the competent United Nations bodies and have it issued as a document of the United Nations, and to request that they include the question 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;

27. To request the Secretary-General of the League to follow up implementation of the resolution and report to the Council of the League at its next ordinary session.

(Resolution 8619 — 155th ordinary session — second meeting — 3 March 2021)

- Iraq formally expresses its reservations to paragraphs 5, 6 and 10 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 5, 6 and 10 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 reiterate that Lebanon is committed to the Charter of the League of Arab States and, in particular, to article 8 thereof. We requested that all references to Hizbullah be deleted, so that we might be able to endorse the entire resolution without any reservations.

The risks posed by Israeli weapons to Arab national security and international peace

Establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction

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,
- The recommendations of the Committee of Senior Arab Officials on Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction,

Recalling the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 1 March 2021,

Decides

I. Preparations for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, 2–27 August 2021)

1. To note that, owing to the exceptional circumstances arising from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has been rescheduled to the period from 2 to 27 August 2021; to charge the Committee of Senior Arab Officials with following up developments in that regard;

2. To emphasize once again that it is important for all Arab States to take part in the proceedings of the Review Conference, maintain a unified Arab position, preserve the gains made by the Arab States in the previous review conferences, refrain from relinquishing those gains, and follow up and confront any attempt to curtail them;

3. To re-emphasize also the inalienable right of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to develop and use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes; to reject any endeavour to restrict the rights of such States under any pretext;

4. To recall that the 1995 resolution on the Middle East remains in force until its purposes and objectives have been fulfilled, that it is an integral part of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, and that it was part of a deal on that formed the basis for the unanimous agreement to the indefinite extension of the Conference;

5. To emphasize that any future proposal for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction must take into consideration the terms of reference that were agreed by consensus, namely the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the outcomes of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences; and to reject any endeavour further to postpone implementation of those terms of reference, which would have negative repercussions for the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and for the 2020 Review Conference;

6. To emphasize the importance of delivering the Arab statements adopted by the Council of the League in resolution 8481 adopted on 4 March 2020 at its 153rd ordinary session concerning the submission of the Arab working paper entitled "Specific regional issues and implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle

East" to the Secretariat of the Conference on behalf of the Group of Arab States; and to urge Arab States to deliver national statements concerning the three pillars of the Treaty, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy) and the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons;

7. To request that the Group of Arab States in New York make a comprehensive assessment in the light of the outcomes of the Review Conference and submit it to the Committee of Senior Officials with a view to the compilation of a report to be submitted to the ordinary session of the Council of the League at the ministerial level to be held in March 2022;

II. Israeli nuclear capabilities and Arab coordination at the 65th session of the IAEA General Conference (Vienna, 20–24 September 2021)

8. To commend Morocco for chairing the 64th session of the IAEA General Conference and making it a success;

9. To request that the Group of Arab States in Vienna have an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities" included on the agenda of the 65th session of the IAEA General Conference;

III. Preparations for the second session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction

10. To take note of the postponement of the second session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and to emphasize that the session should be convened no later than November 2021;

11. To thank Jordan for preparing, chairing and organizing the first session of the Conference, successfully guiding its work and ensuring the adoption of a balanced political statement, and to thank Kuwait for chairing the second session and offer its full support;

12. To stress that all Arab States should take part in the conference, and that the effective participation of all regional and international parties is essential to the success of the Conference;

13. To emphasize that all Arab States and relevant regional organizations should attend the proceedings of the Conference;

14. To emphasize that the Conference is an additional step to support the broader Arab engagement with the Treaty and that, rather than being an alternative track, it complements and supports the other processes;

15. To request that the Group of Arab States continue its consultations with a view to preparing for the second session of the Conference, and holding the meetings on procedural rules that were agreed to at the first session of the Conference; and to request that the Group provide the Committee of Senior Officials and the Secretariat of the League with information concerning all new developments in that regard;

IV. Threat posed by the Iranian nuclear reactor in Bushehr

16. To request that the Group of Arab States in Vienna continue to take the actions set out in part IV of resolution 8363 of the Council of the League (151st ordinary session), dated 6 March 2019, concerning the threat posed by the Iranian nuclear reactor in Bushehr, and meet with the Director General of IAEA;

17. To emphasize that the Group of Arab States in Vienna should continue to work and to coordinate Arab and international positions at IAEA with a view to increasing the pressure on Iran and requiring it to accede to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and benefit from an IAEA review mission to strengthen confidence in its nuclear programme in the region;

18. To emphasize that the Committee of Senior Officials should follow up the issue of the threat posed by the Iranian nuclear reactor in Bushehr, in coordination with the Groups of Arab States in Vienna and New York;

V.

19. To welcome the entry into force on 22 January 2021 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which is an important addition to the global disarmament and non-proliferation system, and one whose purposes are consistent with Arab policies in that connection; and to emphasize that the Treaty complements, but does not replace, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

20. To request that the Secretariat provide a briefing on developments in the situation to the Council of the League at the ministerial level at its next ordinary session.

(Resolution 8620 — 155th ordinary session — second meeting — 3 March 2021)

Cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations and other international organizations

Cooperation between the League of Arab States and the Security Council

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,
- Its resolutions 8078 (146th ordinary session) of 8 September 2016, 8140 (147th ordinary session) of 7 March 2017, 8195 (148th ordinary session) of 12 September 2017, 8256 (149th ordinary session) of 7 March 2017, 8424 (152nd ordinary session) of 10 September 2019, 8493 (153rd ordinary session) of 4 March 2020, and 8561 (154th ordinary session) of 9 September 2020,
- The recommendations set out in the presidential statements issued after the high-level Security Council meetings held on 13 June 2019 (S/PRST/2019/5) and 18 January 2021 (S/PRST/2021/2) respectively,

Recalling the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 1 March 2021,

Decides

1. To thank Tunisia, as the Arab non-permanent member of the Security Council for the term 2020-2021, for its efforts to promote relations between the League of Arab States and the United Nations;

2. To request that the Group of Arab States, the Permanent Observer Mission of League of Arab States in New York and the Secretariat of the League in Cairo to consult and coordinate with the Arab member of the Security Council to follow up implementation of the two presidential statements, in particular with regard to the following points:

- That the Security Council should, whenever possible, hold a meeting at the leadership level with the participation of the Arab Summit Troika and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, on the margins of the General Assembly high-level segment, in order to discuss developments in Arab issues;
- That an informal meeting of representatives of members of the Security Council and of the Council of the League should be held at Secretariat headquarters with a view to consultation between the two groups on salient recent developments in the Arab region;
- That the Security Council should hold a high-level briefing entitled "Cooperation between the League of Arab States and the Security Council, with the participation of the Secretary-General of the League, during the presidency of the Arab member of the Security Council, to further promote cooperation between the Security Council and the League on matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security, especially at the regional level, and consider ways to improve collective security;
- That trilateral cooperation and coordination among the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States should be strengthened on cross-regional peace and security issues, and that such cooperation and coordination

should be strengthened with other organizations on situations of common interest;

3. To request that the Arab non-permanent member of the Security Council coordinate with the Group of Arab States and the Permanent Observer Mission of the League of Arab States in New York to take advantage of the use of video teleconferencing technologies to organize a virtual meeting between the League and the members of the Security Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

4. To request that the non-permanent Arab member of the Security Council coordinate and consult with the Group of Arab States in New York in order to work to put in place a mechanism to act on the proposal of the Group aimed at unifying the position of the Security Council regarding Arab issues, curbing the use of the veto and finding Arab solutions to Arab problems;

5. To task the Secretariat with providing a briefing on developments in the situation to the Council of the League at the ministerial level at its next ordinary session.

(Resolution 8632 — 155th ordinary session — second meeting — 3 March 2021)