

**Security Council**

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**Identical letters dated 20 March 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to the relevant rules and norms of international law, I wish to inform you that the Government of Iraq objects to the installation by the Kuwaiti side of the platform referred to in memorandum No. 1784 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq dated 19 March 2023. The platform is located at coordinates Lat 29 24 N, Long. 048 50.701 E, within the exclusive economic zone of Iraq, beyond marker 162. That location is in the non-demarcated maritime area, and negotiations are still under way between the two countries with a view to demarcating that area. Any material actions in the area thus have no legal effect for the Republic of Iraq. The contents of the Kuwaiti decrees of 17 December 1967 and 29 October 2014 cannot be invoked, as doing so would mean unilaterally demarcating the maritime zone and imposing a de facto situation inconsistent with the maritime spaces of Iraq. That course of action would undermine good faith and contravene the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, not to mention hampering the ongoing negotiations between the two countries. The Government of Iraq therefore calls once again on the Kuwaiti side to remove the platform and desist from any unilateral activity or material action in that area, pending a definitive agreement on the demarcation of maritime boundaries between the two countries.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council and published in the next edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) Abbas Kadhom Obaid **Al-Fatlawi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

