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**General Assembly
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Culture of peace****Security Council
Seventy-fourth year****Letter dated 9 December 2019 from the Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

As you may recall, in his remarks during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, on 25 September 2019, President Hassan Rouhani of the Islamic Republic of Iran launched the Hormuz Peace Endeavour, known as HOPE (see [A/74/PV.5](#)). On the same day, Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, provided more details on the initiative in his statement to the Security Council (see [S/PV.8626](#)).

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 6 December 2019 from Minister Zarif on the subject (see annex). The initial draft of the Hormuz Peace Endeavour is also annexed to the aforementioned letter for your consideration.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid **Takht Ravanchi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 9 December 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran launched the Hormuz Peace Endeavour, known as HOPE, at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly. This initiative arises from Iran's sincere conviction that the protraction of "attrition conflicts" and "ever-escalating tensions" between States bordering the Persian Gulf is not only prone to further destabilize the region – eventually compromising international peace and security in an irreparable way – but is also severely stifling our respective peoples' inalienable right to development, to freedom from fear and want and to the full realization of their economic, social, cultural and political rights.

Indeed, as neighbours destined to live together, the Persian Gulf littoral States' precious resources are too often wasted to contain one another, their priorities too unnecessarily shifted towards self-preservation and their attentions too unwarrantedly deflected from discerning common interests towards a zero-sum competition. The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that the continuation of this protracted state of mistrust, acrimony and conflict could only serve the myopic interests of shady foreign forces that feed off endless wars, fratricide and the arms race in our region while severely jeopardizing – along with world peace – the well-being, progress and prosperity of our future generations.

It is with this understanding that we have devised an endogenous, holistic, subject-oriented and inclusive plan that would – through an elaborate process of consultation and inclusive participation – allow Governments, private sectors, academia, civil society and other stakeholders of all eight littoral States of the Persian Gulf – the Hormuz Community – to join forces and make use of their local wisdom, expertise and experiences to cooperatively tackle the very serious challenges currently arising from such plagues as terrorism, extremism, sectarianism, poverty, environmental degradation, expansionism and interventionism.

In line with the Charter of the United Nations, our proposed initiative is based, inter alia, on such fundamental principles as equal footing and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, good-neighbourliness, non-aggression, non-interference, the peaceful settlement of disputes, rejection of the threat and use of force, arms control, non-proliferation, energy security and freedom of navigation.

Indeed, Iran deems commitment to and observance of these principles – coupled with the methodical initiation of a process of rapprochement through dialogue, confidence-building measures and mutual respect – as the only realistic means to tackle current chronic and forthcoming challenges and to guarantee sustainable peace and development for our region.

Furthermore, this initiative – which can begin with or lead to the signing of a Hormuz community non-intervention and non-aggression pact – also envisages the active participation of the United Nations – as also called for in paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution [598 \(1987\)](#) – to furnish the necessary international umbrella to alleviate the concerns of all States and to safeguard the legitimate interests of the international community and its member States.

Pursuant to President Rouhani's letter to Heads of State and Government of all littoral States of the Persian Gulf – namely, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates – I have the pleasure to enclose the initial draft of the Hormuz Peace Endeavour for your consideration.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. Javad **Zarif**

Enclosure

Hormuz Peace Endeavour (HOPE)

Cognizant of the responsibility of the States of surrounding the Strait of Hormuz – Hormuz Community (HC) – to ensure tranquility, peace, stability, progress and prosperity in their region;

Noting the common vital interest of all states of the HC and the global community to maintain freedom of navigation and energy security for all producers and consumers who depend on the Strait of Hormuz;

Reaffirming the imperative of regional endeavours to prevent war, conflict, violence, extremism, terrorism, and sectarian tension which have afflicted the HC with immense loss of life and resources;

Considering common bonds of religion, culture, tradition, history, geography and kinship that binds peoples and nations of the HC together;

The States immediately affected by developments in the Strait of Hormuz – the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates decide to launch Hormuz Peace Endeavour (HOPE).

Objectives:

- Promote peace, stability, progress and prosperity of all States and peoples of the HC;
- Encourage mutual understanding and peaceful and friendly relations and cooperation among peoples and States of the HC;
- Cooperate to eradicate terrorism, extremism and sectarian tensions, defuse tensions and resolve disputes and conflicts in the HC peacefully and through dialogue, enhanced communication, and early warning;
- Ensure energy security, freedom of navigation and free flow of oil and other resources to and from the HC and beyond for all;
- Protect HC environment;
- Enhance the global role and stature of the HC;
- Expand cooperation, interaction, business, trade and investments at various levels and fields among the governments, peoples and private sectors of the HC;

Principles:

- Abide by the purposes and principles of the United Nations;
- Good-Neighborly Relations;
- Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- Inviolability of international borders;
- Peaceful settlement of all disputes;
- Rejection of threat or use of force or participation in coalitions or alliances against each other;
- Non-intervention in internal or external affairs of each other;
- Mutual respect, mutual interest and equal footing;

- Respect for sanctities, historical, religious and national symbols of States and peoples of the HC.

Plan of Action:

- Meetings at the levels of experts, think tanks, private sector, senior officials, ministers and Heads of State to deliberate and find common approaches on the following objectives:
 - i. Energy security and freedom of navigation for all;
 - ii. Arms control and confidence and security building measures;
 - iii. Promotion of non-proliferation and establishment of zone free from weapons of mass destruction;
 - iv. Military contacts and exchange of data and information;
 - v. Regional conflict prevention and resolution; and
 - vi. Conclusion of HC non-aggression pact;
- Establishment of joint task forces to envisage practical measures to gradually build confidence and expand cooperation in the following fields:
 - i. Common security, including hot lines, early warning systems and prevention and resolution of regional conflicts, combatting drugs, terrorism, and human trafficking;
 - ii. Economic cooperation, including joint investments and ventures in oil, gas, energy, transit and transportation;
 - iii. Enhancement of energy security and freedom of navigation for all;
 - iv. Promotion of business and trade and private sector engagement;
 - v. Cultural and social cooperation, including interreligious dialogue, cultural exchanges, and tourism;
 - vi. Scientific cooperation, including exchange of scholars and students, and joint scientific and technological projects;
 - vii. Cooperation in emerging cyber issues, including cyber security;
 - viii. Protection of the environment, particularly the marine environment, nuclear safety and the adverse effects of dust and haze; and
 - ix. Humanitarian cooperation particularly regarding migrants, refugees and displaced persons.
- The United Nations will furnish the necessary international umbrella. This would help enhance confidence among States of the HC, ensure the legitimate interests of the international community, and establish the necessary linkage regarding issues that inherently go beyond the boundaries of any single region.¹

¹ Paragraph 8 of Security Council Resolution 598 (1987) provides the necessary institutional base.