

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
19 May 2020

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-fourth session
Agenda item 83****Security Council
Seventy-fifth year****The rule of law at the national and international levels****Letter dated 17 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of
the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 17 May 2020 from Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see annex), regarding recent reports about the United States' intention to consider dangerous, unlawful and extremely provocative measures against Iranian oil tankers engaging in perfectly lawful international commerce with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

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 83, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid Takht Ravanchi
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 17 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you regarding recent reports about the United States' intention to consider dangerous, unlawful and extremely provocative measures against Iranian oil tankers engaging in perfectly lawful international commerce with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. This is particularly alarming when the United States is reportedly dispatching its naval forces to the Caribbean region with the intention of interfering in the shipment of fuel to Venezuela.

This hegemonic gunboat diplomacy seriously threatens freedom of international commerce and navigation and the free flow of energy. It represents a clear manifestation of piracy and a gross violation of international law and runs counter to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly Article 2 (4). These efforts by the United States to take coercive measures to disrupt Iran's oil sale are a dangerous escalation of the officially proclaimed United States policy of economic terrorism against the Iranian people in violation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

Such unlawful and provocative measures endanger international peace and security and further challenge multilateralism, which has already been undermined as a result of the serious addiction of the United States to sanctions and economic terrorism, as well as its policy of withdrawing from international instruments and institutions.

In the absence of a decisive action on the part of the international community to counter such irresponsible practices, the bullies in Washington will only be further emboldened to pursue their short-sighted political interests in violation of the basic principles of international law, morality and humanity.

Given the grave implications of the continuation of these unlawful measures on the freedom of international commerce and trade as a constitutional norm, as well as the principle of freedom of navigation, the free flow of energy and international peace and security, the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, must live up to its legal obligations and moral responsibilities, condemn, in the strongest possible terms, these illegal measures and hold the United States accountable for them.

The Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon the United States to respect the rules of international law, particularly the principle of freedom of the high seas, and warns against any illegal actions. The United States will never benefit from such adventurism, hence any irresponsible act in breach of its obligations will sow the seeds of disorder and chaos in international waters.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right to take all appropriate and necessary measures and decisive action, in accordance with related laws, norms and procedures and the applicable rules of international law, to secure its legitimate rights and interests against such bullying policies and unlawful practices, and the United States bears the full responsibility for the consequences of these illegal measures.

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

(Signed) M. Javad **Zarif**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran