



# Security Council

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## **Letter dated 26 February 2021 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 Security Council resolution 2565 (2021), related to agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security” and adopted on 26 February 2021. Resolution 2565 (2021) was adopted in accordance with the voting procedure set out in the letter by the President of the Security Council dated 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253), a procedure agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

Pursuant to that procedure, I enclose herewith copies of the related documents:

My letter dated 25 February 2021, addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (annex I), putting to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/171 (see enclosure to annex I), and letters received in reply from Security Council members indicating their national positions on the draft resolution (annexes II to XVI).

This letter and its enclosures will be issued as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* **Barbara Woodward**  
President of the Security Council



## Annex I

### **Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to 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, as set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the members of the Council (S/2020/253), I would like to draw your attention to the following.

The members of the Council have discussed a draft resolution, submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in connection with the agenda item "Maintenance of international peace and security". That draft resolution, contained in document S/2021/171 and enclosed herein, has been put into blue.

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I hereby put the above-mentioned draft resolution to a vote. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period for this draft resolution will begin at 11 a.m. on Thursday, 25 February 2021. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period will expire at 11 a.m. on Friday, 26 February 2021.

Please submit your vote (in favour, against, or abstain) on the draft resolution, as well as your possible explanation of vote, by sending a letter signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d'affaires a.i. within the non-extendable 24-hour voting period set out above to the Officer-in-Charge of the Security Council Affairs Division (SCAD/DPPA) in the United Nations Secretariat (sutterlin@un.org).

It is my intention to circulate a letter listing the outcome of the vote within three hours of the conclusion of the 24-hour voting period. I also intend to convene a video-teleconference of the Security Council to announce the outcome of the vote shortly after the conclusion of the voting period, on the afternoon of Friday, 26 February 2021.

*(Signed)* Barbara **Woodward**  
President of the Security Council

Enclosure

United Nations

S/2021/171

**Security Council**Provisional  
25 February 2021

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**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:  
draft resolution**

*The Security Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2286 (2016) and 2532 (2020) and General Assembly resolutions 74/270 and 74/274,

*Reaffirming* that combating and sustainably recovering from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic requires greater national, regional, and international cooperation and solidarity, and a coordinated, inclusive, comprehensive and global international response with the United Nations (UN) playing a key role,

*Recognising* that armed conflicts can exacerbate the COVID-19 pandemic, and that inversely the pandemic can exacerbate the adverse humanitarian impact of armed conflicts, as well as exacerbating inequalities, and *expressing concern* that the call for a general and immediate cessation of hostilities contained in its resolution 2532 (2020) was not fully heeded,

*Recalling* the obligations under the International Health Regulations (2005) and applicable international law,

*Emphasising* the unity, common origin and solidarity of mankind, and the need for intensified international collaboration in the face of the common threat of pandemics, in particular by enabling equitable global access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines, and essential health technologies, and their components, as well as equipment for the COVID-19 response, in situations of armed conflict, post-conflict situations, and complex humanitarian emergencies, and *taking into account* the need to maintain incentives for the development of new health products,

*Highlighting* the World Health Organisation (WHO) call that as new variants arise there should be increased scientific collaboration, transparency, exchange of information and sharing scientific knowledge including of epidemiology and genomic sequencing data, and equitable access to COVID-19 health products, and *recognising* in that respect the crucial role of the WHO and the importance of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A),

*Stressing* that equitable access to safe, efficacious, and affordable COVID-19 vaccines is essential to end the pandemic, *noting* the need to maintain incentives for the development of new health products, and *highlighting* the impediments to vaccination, including gaps in financing, supply, manufacturing capacity, delivery,

logistics, and administration, as well as other such factors that could negatively affect vaccination efforts, in situations of armed conflict, in post-conflict situations, and complex humanitarian emergencies,

*Expressing concern* that progress in vaccine access has been uneven and recognising that those affected by conflict and insecurity are particularly at risk of being left behind,

*Recognising* 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,

*Recognising* the role of extensive immunisation against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing, and stopping transmission, of COVID-19 and its variant strains, in order to bring the pandemic to an end,

*Recognising* the critical role of, and efforts made by, health workers, especially female health workers and other frontline and essential workers, including humanitarian personnel, around the world aimed at addressing the pandemic through measures to protect the health, safety, and well-being of people

*Stressing further* that an effective health response to the pandemic requires addressing global and country-specific operational challenges such as protection of health workers, delays in regulatory approval, supply chain management and logistics, data on the provision of health-care services, as well as private sector and community responses, and *emphasising* the importance of the national vaccination programmes,

*Highlighting* the WHO call for measures to counter the spread of stigmatisation, misinformation, and disinformation, such as on COVID-19 vaccines, including through community engagement, and through civilian, police, and peacekeeping efforts in situations of armed conflict, post-conflict situations, and complex humanitarian emergencies,

*Welcoming* the efforts of countries that have donated to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility to provide the broadest and most equitable international access to the world's neediest, as well as other donations of COVID-19 vaccines,

*Expressing appreciation* for the continued contributions of national and international medical and humanitarian personnel, and *commending* the UN system especially the WHO for its key leadership role in quickly coordinating the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts of Member States therein,

*Recognizing* the vital role of United Nations peacekeeping operations in contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security, *expressing deep appreciation* for the UN personnel in UN peacekeeping operations, including personnel from troop- and police-contributing countries, for their extraordinary efforts in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, *stressing* the importance of their health and well-being, and *noting* the establishment of the Group of Friends on COVID-19 vaccines for UN uniformed personnel with the goal to develop policy recommendations for the vaccination of uniformed peacekeepers to ensure the urgent vaccination of peacekeeping contingents and to improve safety of peacekeepers,

*Considering* that the unprecedented extent of the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security,

1. *Calls* for the strengthening of national and multilateral approaches and international cooperation, such as the COVAX Facility created within the ACT-A,

and other relevant initiatives as appropriate, in order to facilitate equitable and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines in armed conflict situations, post-conflict situations and complex humanitarian emergencies, *stresses* the need to develop international partnerships particularly to scale-up manufacturing and distribution capabilities, in recognition of differing national contexts, and *notes* the need to maintain incentives for the development of new health products; and *recognising* the role of extensive immunisation against COVID-19 as a global public good for health;

2. *Reiterates its demand* for a general and immediate cessation of hostilities in all situations on its agenda and *supports* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and his Special Representatives and Special Envoys in that respect;

3. *Demands* that all parties to armed conflicts engage immediately in a durable, extensive, and sustained humanitarian pause to facilitate, inter alia, the equitable, safe and unhindered delivery and distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations in areas of armed conflict;

4. *Calls for* full, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access, without delay, for humanitarian personnel and medical personnel, their equipment, transport and supplies, in order to facilitate, inter alia, COVID-19 vaccinations, as appropriate, and *calls for* the protection, safety, and security of such humanitarian and medical personnel, and in this regard *urges* all parties to protect civilian infrastructure which is critical to the delivery of humanitarian aid for essential services concerning vaccinations and related medical care, in situations of armed conflicts and complex humanitarian emergencies;

5. *Reaffirms* that this general and immediate cessation of hostilities and this humanitarian pause do not apply to military operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), Al Qaeda and Al Nusra Front, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al Qaeda or ISIL, and other terrorist groups, which have been designated by the Security Council;

6. *Demands* that all parties to armed conflicts fully comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, as applicable, and international humanitarian law, in particular their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the obligations, as applicable, under the Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005, to ensure the respect and protection of all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this resolution, in particular a full assessment of the impediments to vaccine accessibility and the COVID-19 response, including vaccination programmes, in countries in situations of armed conflict and complex humanitarian emergencies, frequently and as necessary, and make recommendations to the Council;

8. *Expresses its intention* to review those specific situations brought to its attention by the Secretary-General where hostilities and the activities of armed groups are impeding COVID-19 vaccination and to consider what further measures may be necessary to ensure such impediments are removed and hostilities paused to enable vaccination;

9. *Calls for* COVID-19 national vaccination plans to include those at a higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms and the most vulnerable, including frontline workers, older people, refugees, internally displaced people, stateless people, indigenous people, migrants, persons with disabilities, detained persons, as well as people living in areas under the control of any non-state armed group;

10. *Calls for* full funding of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2021 that takes into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on humanitarian situations, the ACT-A and its mechanisms such as the COVAX Facility and the health system connector, and other relevant initiatives to accelerate the development and production of, and equitable access to, COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines;

11. *Emphasises* the urgent need for solidarity, equity, and efficacy and invites donation of vaccine doses from developed economies and all those in a position to do so to low- and middle-income countries and other countries in need, particularly through the COVAX Facility including on the basis of the WHO allocation framework in addition to country-specific frameworks, for fair access and equitable allocation of COVID-19 health products;

12. *Calls on* Member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote research and capacity-building initiatives, as well as to enhance cooperation on and access to science, innovation, technologies, technical assistance and knowledge sharing, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, especially with developing countries, in a collaborative, coordinated and transparent manner in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and *further calls for* taking steps to avoid speculation and undue stockpiling that may hinder access to safe and effective vaccines, especially for situations of armed conflict;

13. *Further requests* that Special Representatives and Special Envoys of the Secretary-General, within their respective mandates, and in coordination with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the COVAX Facility and ACT-A and other relevant initiatives as appropriate, use their good offices and mediation with parties to armed conflicts to facilitate the COVID-19 response including vaccination in situations of armed conflict, and in their ordinary reporting to the Council identify barriers to accessibility and those disrupting or blocking efforts to establish vaccination pauses;

Decides to remain seized of the matter,

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**Annex II****Letter dated 26 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I would like to thank you, Madam, and your team for the strong support in facilitating the voting procedure.

Kindly be informed that China votes in favour of the draft resolution (S/2021/171) submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”.

*(Signed)* **Zhang Jun**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

### **Annex III**

#### **Letter dated 25 February 2021 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 in favour of the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic under the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security” and contained in document S/2021/171.

*(Signed)* **Sven Jürgenson**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations



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**Annex IV****Letter dated 26 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: French]

I refer to the letter by the British presidency of the Security Council dated 25 February 2021 calling on the members of the Security Council to vote on the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the vaccination against coronavirus disease under the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”, put into blue under the symbol S/2021/171. France votes in favour.

(*Signed*) **Nicolas de Rivière**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

**Annex V**

**Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 25 February 2021 on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”, contained in document S/2021/171.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council being in place during the duration of 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 India votes in favour of draft resolution S/2021/171.

*(Signed)* T. S. **Tirumurti**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

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**Annex VI****Letter dated 26 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 25 February 2021, on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”, contained in document S/2021/171.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council for the duration of the restrictions of 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 Ireland votes in favour of the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/171.

*(Signed)* Geraldine **Byrne Nason**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

## Annex VII

### **Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution (S/2021/171) submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”.

In that respect, I wish to inform you that Kenya votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* **Martin Kimani**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations

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**Annex VIII****Letter dated 26 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the letter dated 25 February 2021 regarding the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”, submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and contained in document S/2021/171.

In accordance with the procedure outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253) for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council, I have the honour to inform you that Mexico votes in favour of the aforementioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* **Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

## **Annex IX**

### **Letter dated 25 February 2021 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 from the President of the Security Council dated 25 February 2021 calling on the members of the Council to express their votes on the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/171, submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”.

In accordance with the agreed temporary procedures for the adoption of draft resolutions during the coronavirus disease pandemic restrictions, I have the honour to indicate that the Republic of the Niger decides to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Abdou **Abarry**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations

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**Annex X****Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the President of the Security Council's letter dated 25 February 2021 relating to the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item "Maintenance of international peace and security".

In accordance with the procedure set forth for the adoption of draft resolutions under the current circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, I am pleased to inform you that Norway votes in favour of the draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Mona **Juul**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

## **Annex XI**

### **Letter dated 25 February 2021 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 dated 25 February 2021 on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security” (S/2021/171).

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council being in place during the duration of 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 draft resolution S/2021/171.

*(Signed)* Vassily **Nebenzia**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations



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**Annex XII****Letter dated 25 February 2021 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 draft resolution (S/2021/171) submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”.

In that respect, I wish to inform you that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Inga Rhonda **King**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations

### **Annex XIII**

#### **Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Further to the letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in her capacity as the President of the Security Council, concerning the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom in connection with the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”, as contained in document (S/2021/171), I would like to inform you that Tunisia votes in favour of that draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Tarek **Ladeb**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

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**Annex XIV****Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the President of the Security Council**

With reference to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 25 February 2021, the United Kingdom votes in favour of draft resolution S/2021/171, in connection with the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security”.

*(Signed)* Barbara **Woodward**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

**Annex XV**

**Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the agenda item “Maintenance of international peace and security” (S/2021/171), the United States of America votes in favour.

*(Signed)* Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the United States of America  
to the United Nations

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**Annex XVI****Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

In reference to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 25 February 2021 relating to the draft resolution under the agenda item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security" as contained in document S/2021/171, I would like to hereby inform you that Viet Nam votes in favour of said draft resolution.

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

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