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**Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness,
stability and development in South-Eastern Europe**

Letter dated 16 October 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter (see annex) addressed to María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Dimitrov, regarding the signing of an agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic on 17 June 2018.

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 95.

(Signed) Tanja **Dinevska**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 16 October 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

12 October 2018

On 17 June 2018, the Republic of Macedonia and the Hellenic Republic signed an agreement for the settlement of the difference over the name and the establishment of a strategic partnership between the two countries.

The agreement presents a historic opportunity to overcome a dispute over the name that has burdened relations between the two neighbours for over a quarter of a century and impeded the process of accession of the Republic of Macedonia to European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

This process was guided by obligations to resolve the differences pursuant to Security Council resolutions [817 \(1993\)](#) of 7 April 1993 and [845 \(1993\)](#) of 18 June 1993, as well as article 5 of the Interim Accord of 13 September 1995. General Assembly resolution [47/225](#) of 8 April 1993 was also taken into account.

Both Governments entered into the negotiation process fully aware of the importance of the issue and the sensitivities of each country, and at the same time respectful of the principles and norms of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. We were also guided by the need to strengthen peace, stability and security, further promote cooperation in South-Eastern Europe and strengthen an atmosphere of trust and good-neighbour relations in the region.

But most important, as good neighbours, we aimed to resolve the dispute by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and put to rest permanently the difference over the name and any hostile attitudes that may persist.

It indeed required strong political will and resolve to find a mutually acceptable and sustainable solution to reach agreement whereby both national interests will be protected and safeguarded.

The agreement, first and foremost, is about bringing and promoting peace and stability. It is about good neighbourliness and friendship. It is about resolving problems and paving avenues for the prosperity of our people, our States and the region. And to us, certainly, it is about reaffirming our statehood and our nation, our distinctive identity.

The Government is grateful for the strong support that it received from the international community, including the United Nations, through the good offices of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy Matthew Nimetz. As Secretary-General António Guterres has underlined, the sides have taken a major step towards resolving their difference by signing the agreement on 17 June 2018.

The overwhelming majority of the international community, our partners and friends welcomed the agreement as historic. It is widely seen not only as a great opportunity for the two countries and peoples, but also as a turning point to open a new chapter of cooperation in the region.

We strongly believe that its implementation will bring benefits to the two countries, our region and Europe as a whole. In particular, it would pave the way for the European future of my country and of the entire region.

To ensure its entry into force, the agreement stipulates a sequence of mutually conditional steps to be taken by the two sides. Certain steps were already carried out by both sides as agreed. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia is fully

committed to implementing its part of the obligations. And the same resolve was also strongly expressed by our neighbour, the Hellenic Republic.

While there are still many steps ahead of us for the agreement to be fully implemented, my Government expects that all United Nations Member States, our partners and friends and all interested parties will pledge their full support.

(Signed) Nikola **Dimitrov**
