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Identical letters dated 27 October 2023 from the Permanent Representatives of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We are writing with regard to the identical letters dated 22 August 2023 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 ([A/77/1013-S/2023/651](#)) regarding the claim of Iraq that it has sovereign rights in the Arabian Gulf, specifically in the exclusive economic zone, the continental shelf area and the Durrah field. Those letters also contained a claim that the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have signed bilateral agreements and held negotiations without including Iraq.

Our Governments are very surprised by and wish to express their strong objection to the baseless allegations and incorrect information contained in the aforementioned identical letters. The Government of the State of Kuwait reaffirms that the maritime zones of the State of Kuwait were determined by Amiri Decree No. 317 (2014), which was issued in accordance with the principles and provisions of international law, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982.

Our Governments also wish to reaffirm that the Durrah field is located in the maritime zones of Kuwait, that the resources located therein are shared by the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia only and that they alone have exclusive sovereign rights in that field for the purposes of reaping and exploiting its natural resources, in accordance with the provisions of international law and the agreements that they have concluded between them and are in force. The State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also reaffirm that they do not have any shared maritime zones with the Republic of Iraq.

Accordingly, the State of Kuwait once again call upon the Republic of Iraq to complete the demarcation of their maritime boundary beyond marker 162, as demarcated pursuant to Security Council resolution [833 \(1993\)](#) and in accordance with the provisions and principles of international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982.



The Permanent Missions of the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia request that the present letter be circulated to all Member States as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council, and that it be published in the forthcoming edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) Tareq M. A. M. **Albanai**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the
United Nations in New York

(Signed) Abdulaziz M. **Alwasil**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the
United Nations in New York
