



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 20 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing to you, also on behalf of the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine to the United Nations, in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of June.

With reference to Council resolution [2166 \(2014\)](#) and my previous letters to the Council dated 1 and 28 August 2014, 9 September and 16 December 2014, 20 July and 13 October 2015, 28 September 2016, 5 July 2017, and 24 and 25 May 2018, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

Since 2014, the investigative authorities of Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine have been working together in the joint investigation team that has been conducting the independent and international criminal investigation into the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine on 17 July 2014.

On 19 June 2019, the joint investigation team announced that four individuals, with Russian and Ukrainian nationality, would be charged with crimes related to their role in the downing of flight MH17. The presentation and further materials regarding the findings of the joint investigation team have been posted on the website of the Dutch public prosecution service (<https://www.om.nl/onderwerpen/mh17-crash/>).

As communicated to the Council in my letter of 5 July 2017, criminal charges against individuals with regard to the downing of flight MH17 will be brought in the Netherlands under Dutch law and legal proceedings will be held before a Dutch court.

The actions taken by the joint investigation team and the Dutch public prosecution service continue pursuant to Security Council resolution [2166 \(2014\)](#), including the demand made by the Council that those responsible for the downing of flight MH17 be held to account. I wish to recall that, in its resolution, the Security Council also demanded that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability. In that context, the joint investigation team has informed us that the answers, provided by the Russian Federation to a significant number of questions submitted through requests for mutual legal assistance, have proved to be inadequate and insufficient.

The indictment of individuals for crimes related to the downing of flight MH17 is a further significant step towards establishing the truth and achieving justice and accountability for the victims and their next of kin. Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine have full confidence that the above-mentioned legal



proceedings will contribute to achieving justice in accordance with the highest international legal standards of professionalism and independence.

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

(Signed) Karel J. G. **van Oosterom**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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