



Security Council

Distr.: General
13 July 2020

Original: English

Letter dated 9 July 2020 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 the amendment, contained in document S/2020/668 and proposed by the Russian Federation, to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667 and submitted by Belgium and Germany in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”. The voting on the proposal was carried out taking into account the extraordinary current circumstances relating to the Council’s practice and working methods and in accordance with the procedure set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (S/2020/253), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

The proposal received two votes in favour: China and the Russian Federation; seven against: Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America; and six abstentions: Indonesia, the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia and Viet Nam. The proposal was not carried, having failed to obtain the required number of votes.

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

My letter dated 8 July 2020 addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (see annex I), putting to the vote the proposed amendment, contained in document S/2020/668, to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667 (see enclosures to annex I);

Letters received in reply from the members of the Security Council indicating their national positions on the proposed amendment (see annexes II to XVI).

The present letter and its annexes will be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Christoph Heusgen
President of the Security Council



Annex I

Letter dated 8 July 2020 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 all members of the Council (S/2020/253), I would like to draw your attention to the following:

The members of the Council have considered a draft resolution, submitted by Belgium and Germany, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”. That draft resolution has been put in blue (S/2020/667, see enclosure I).

In that connection, I draw your attention to the attached letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation proposing an amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667 (see enclosure II).

Rule 33 of the Security Council’s provisional rules of procedure indicates, inter alia, that a motion to introduce an amendment shall have precedence “over all principal motions and draft resolutions relative to the subject before the meeting”.

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, and taking into account the extraordinary circumstances that currently obtain in connection with the Council’s practice and working methods, in particular the absence of “meetings” as referred to in Rule 33, I hereby put the amendment proposed to the draft resolution contained in S/2020/667, as set out in the attached letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, to a vote. The voting period for this amendment will begin at 12 a.m. on 9 July 2020 and will expire at 12 p.m. on 9 July 2020.

Please submit your vote (in favour, against or abstention) on the proposed amendment to the draft resolution contained in S/2020/667 by sending the Director of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Secretariat (egian@un.org) a letter signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d’affaires a.i. within the 12-hour voting period set out above.

(Signed) **Christoph Heusgen**
President of the Security Council

Enclosure I

United Nations

S/2020/667

**Security Council**Provisional
8 July 2020

Original: English

Belgium and Germany: draft resolution*The Security Council,*

Recalling its resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012), 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2175 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2209 (2015), 2235 (2015), 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015), 2268 (2016), 2286 (2016), 2332 (2016), 2336 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018), 2504 (2020) and its Presidential Statements of 3 August 2011 (S/PRST/2011/16), 21 March 2012 (S/PRST/2012/6), 5 April 2012 (S/PRST/2012/10), 2 October 2013 (S/PRST/2013/15), 24 April 2015 (S/PRST/2015/10), 17 August 2015 (S/PRST/2015/15), and 8 October 2019 (S/PRST/2019/12),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Emphasizing that more than 11 million people in Syria require humanitarian assistance and that the cross-border mechanism remains an urgent and temporary solution to address the humanitarian needs of the population, which cannot be reached through existing operations within Syria,

Expressing grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Syria and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, recognising that the pandemic presents a profound challenge to Syria's health system, socio-economic and humanitarian situations, and calling for the provision of humanitarian assistance to all parts of Syria,

Recalling the guiding principles of Humanitarian Emergency assistance as set out in the GA resolution 46/182 and reiterating the need for all parties to respect and uphold the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance, emphasizing the importance of upholding the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, in the provision of humanitarian assistance and recalling also the importance of humanitarian deliveries reaching their intended beneficiaries,

Taking note of the Report of the Secretary-General on the review of alternative modalities for the border crossing of Al Yarubiyah (S/2020/139), and further taking note of the Review of United Nations crossline and cross-border operations (S/2020/401), and encouraging the United Nations and their implementing partners to continue to take steps to scale up humanitarian deliveries throughout the country.

Taking note of efforts to improve cross-line deliveries of UN humanitarian assistance and encouraging all relevant parties to further promote, on the basis

of United Nations assessments of need, immediate and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, including cross-line.

Determining that the devastating humanitarian situation in Syria continues to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region,

Underscoring that Member States are obligated under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations to accept and carry out the Council's decisions,

1. *Calls* upon all parties to ensure principled, sustained and improved humanitarian assistance to Syria;

2. *Reiterates* its demand that all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, immediately comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law as applicable and further demands the full and immediate implementation of all provisions of all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018), and 2504 (2020) and recalls that some of the violations and abuses committed in Syria may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity;

3. *Decides* to renew the decisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), for a period of six months, that is, until 10 January 2021, excluding the border crossings of Al-Ramtha, and Al Yarubiyah;

4. *Requests* the Secretary General, in view also of the grave risk posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, to report to the Security Council no later than by the end of August 2020 on the impact of the pandemic on the need for and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including medical and surgical supplies, to people in need throughout Syria, including in areas currently not under the control of the Syrian government, in particular in the Northeast of the country, through the most direct routes, and in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence and on trends in cross-border and cross-line access;

5. *Further demands* that all parties allow safe, unimpeded and sustained access for United Nations' and their implementing partners' humanitarian convoys, including medical and surgical supplies, to all requested areas and populations according to United Nations' assessment of need in all parts of Syria;

6. *Reiterates* that the situation will continue to deteriorate further in the absence of a political solution to the Syrian conflict and recalls its demand for the full and immediate implementation of resolution 2254 (2015) to facilitate a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué as set forth in the ISSG Statements, in order to end the conflict in Syria and stresses again that the Syrian people will decide the future of Syria;

7. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian agencies to improve monitoring of the delivery and distribution of United Nations relief consignments and their delivery inside Syria and requests the Secretary-General to conduct, within six months of the adoption of this resolution, an independent written review of the United Nations humanitarian cross-line and cross-border operations, including recommendations on how to further strengthen the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism, in order to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches people in need through the most direct routes, taking into account the views of relevant parties including the Syrian authorities, the relevant neighbouring countries of Syria and the United Nations Humanitarian Agencies and their implementing partners;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Council monthly and to provide a report on a regular basis, at least every 60 days, on the implementation

of resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018), 2504 (2020) and this resolution and on compliance by all relevant parties in Syria and further requests the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports overall trends in United Nations cross-line and cross-border humanitarian access and detailed information on the humanitarian assistance delivered through United Nations humanitarian cross-border operations as authorized by resolution 2165 (2014) and this resolution, including on the number of beneficiaries, locations of aid deliveries at district-level and the volume and nature of items delivered;

9. *Reaffirms* that it will take further measures under the Charter of the United Nations in the event of non-compliance with this resolution or resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018), 2449 (2018), and 2504 (2020);

10. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Enclosure II

Letter dated 8 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the draft resolution presented by Belgium and Germany regarding the cross-border mechanism for humanitarian deliveries to Syria (S/2020/667) does not reflect principle concerns raised by the Russian delegation.

Therefore, I request that the following amendment to operative paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned draft resolution be put to the vote prior to the voting procedure on the draft as a whole:

“Decides to renew the decisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) for a period of six months, that is, until 10 January 2021, excluding the border crossings of Al-Ramtha, Al-Yarubiyah and Bab Al-Salam”.

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

Annex II**Letter dated 9 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the attached letter of the President of the Security dated 8 July (S/2020/669) relating to the proposed amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667, as set out in the letter dated 8 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation.

In accordance with the procedure set forth for the adoption of resolutions under the current extraordinary circumstance caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, Belgium votes against the amendment proposed to the draft resolution contained in S/2020/667, as set out in the attached letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation. At this stage, my delegation does not intend to deliver an explanation of vote.

(Signed) **Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

Annex III

Letter dated 9 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I thank you and your team for your continued strong support in facilitating the voting procedure.

Please be kindly informed that China will vote in favour of the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667, presented by Belgium and Germany, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

Annex IV**Letter dated 9 July 2020 from the Special Envoy to the Security Council of the Dominican Republic addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to your letter dated 8 July 2020 regarding the proposal made by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation for an amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667 under the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”.

Upon instructions from my Government, the delegation of the Dominican Republic votes against the above-mentioned proposed amendment.

(Signed) José **Singer Weisinger**

Ambassador

Special Envoy to the Security Council of the Dominican Republic

Annex V

Letter dated 9 July 2020 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, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter, that my delegation votes against the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation to draft resolution S/2020/667, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East” (Syria cross-border humanitarian aid), to be adopted on 9 July.

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

Annex VI**Letter dated 9 July 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 dated 8 July 2020 from the President of the Security Council calling on the members of the Council to vote on the amendment submitted by the Russian Federation to the draft resolution submitted by Germany and Belgium, which has been put in blue (S/2020/667), on cross-border humanitarian assistance in Syria, under the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”. France votes against.

(Signed) **Nicolas de Rivière**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

Annex VII

Letter dated 9 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is my honour to write to you, Sir, in response to the letter dated 8 July 2020 from the President of the Security Council initiating a written voting procedure, in line with the agreement reached among members of the Security Council.

The vote of the Federal Republic of Germany on the amendment forwarded by the Russian Federation on the draft resolution submitted by Belgium and Germany in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”, as contained in document S/2020/667, is as follows.

The Federal Republic of Germany votes against the above-mentioned amendment.

(Signed) **Christoph Heusgen**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

Annex VIII**Letter dated 9 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing in reference to the letter by the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, dated 8 July 2020, regarding the amendment proposed to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667, as set out in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation.

I hereby indicate that Indonesia abstains in the voting on the proposed amendment.

(Signed) Dian Triansyah **Djani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

Annex IX

Letter dated 9 July 2020 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 8 July 2020 calling on the members of the Council to express their vote on the amendment submitted by the Russian Federation to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667, submitted by Belgium and Germany under the item “The situation in the Middle East”.

In accordance with the agreed temporary procedures for the adoption of resolutions during the coronavirus disease pandemic restrictions, I have the honour to indicate that the Republic of the Niger decides to abstain in the voting on the said amendment.

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

Annex X**Letter dated 9 July 2020 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 8 July 2020, on the beginning of the voting procedure for the amendment proposed by the Russian delegation to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of 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 from the President of the Security Council dated 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Federation votes in favour of the amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Annex XI

Letter dated 9 July 2020 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 proposal submitted by the Russian Federation for an amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667.

In that respect, I wish to inform you that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines abstains in the voting on the above-mentioned amendment.

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

Annex XII**Letter dated 9 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to your letter dated 8 July 2020 regarding the draft resolution concerning “The situation in the Middle East” contained in document S/2020/667.

The delegation of the Republic of South Africa abstains in the voting on the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667.

(Signed) Jerry Matthews **Matjila**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

Annex XIII

Letter dated 9 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to the letter dated 8 July 2020 emanating from the Permanent Representative of Germany, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, regarding the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation on the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667, I would like to inform you that Tunisia abstains in the voting on the above-mentioned amendment.

(Signed) **Kais Kabtani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

Annex XIV**Letter dated 9 July 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

With reference to the letter from the President of the Security Council of 8 July, the United Kingdom votes against the Russian Federation's proposed amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667 in connection with the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East".

(Signed) Jonathan Allen
Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations

Annex XV

Letter dated 9 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On the amendment proposed to the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/667, as set out in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, the United States of America votes against.

(Signed) **Kelly Craft**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United States of America
to the United Nations

Annex XVI**Letter dated 9 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

In reference to the letter dated 8 July 2020 from the President of the Security Council relating to the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation to the draft resolution under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”, as contained in document S/2020/667, I would like to hereby inform you that Viet Nam abstains in the voting on said amendment.

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