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## Identical letters dated 29 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the League of Arab States and in the capacity of Egypt as the current President of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 26 October 2020 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations (see annex), transmitting the following resolutions, adopted by the Council of the League at the ministerial level at its ordinary session, held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 9 September 2020 (see enclosure):

1. Resolution 8536: Solidarity with the Lebanese Republic
2. Resolution 8537: Developments in the situation in Syria
3. Resolution 8538: Developments in the situation in Libya
4. Resolution 8539: Developments in the situation in Yemen
5. Resolution 8540: The occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arab Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: the Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa
6. Resolution 8541: Safety of navigation and energy supplies in the Arab Gulf region
7. Resolution 8542: Unified position on the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq
8. Resolution 8543: Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed Edrees  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative



**Annex to the identical letters dated 29 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

[Original: Arabic]

**Letter dated 26 October 2020 from the Permanent Observer Mission of the League of Arab States in New York**

In keeping with the practice followed by the Group of Arab States whereby the chair of each ministerial or summit session of the Council of the League of Arab States is charged with transmitting the relevant resolutions to the appropriate United Nations bodies by means of an official memorandum or letter from the Permanent Observer Mission of the League of Arab States in New York, and in accordance with article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Arabic and English versions of the resolutions that were adopted by the Council of the League at the ministerial level at its ordinary session, which was held via videoconference in Cairo on 9 September 2020. Those resolutions are:

1. Solidarity with the Lebanese Republic
2. Developments in the situation in Syria
3. Developments in the situation in Libya
4. Developments in the situation in Yemen
5. The occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa
6. Safety of navigation and energy supplies in the Arabian Gulf region
7. Unified Arab position on the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq
8. Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States

In accordance with the instructions of the secretariat of the League of Arab States in that regard, I should be grateful if you would transmit the present letter and its enclosure to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council for issuance as a document of the General Assembly and the Council under the relevant agenda item.

(Signed) Maged Abdelfattah **Abdelaziz**  
Ambassador  
Head of the Observer Mission, New York

## Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]

### Arab affairs and national security

#### Solidarity with the Lebanese Republic

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on the intersessional activities of the Secretariat,
- Resolution 7738 (141st ordinary session), dated 9 March 2014, concerning the negative and dangerous repercussions of the Syrian displaced person crisis for Lebanon,
- The resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level, the most recent of which was resolution 8469, adopted at the 146th ordinary session on 4 March 2020,
- Communication 66/jim/4, dated 23 August 2020, from the Permanent Mission of the Lebanese Republic,

Reaffirming the resolutions adopted at the Arab summit conferences, the most recent of which was resolution 751 (30th ordinary session), adopted on 31 March 2019 at the Tunis summit, as well as resolution 599 (25th ordinary session), adopted on 26 March 2014 at the Kuwait summit, concerning support for the Lebanese Army,

Noting the latest domestic, regional and international developments concerning Lebanon,

Recalling the relevant international resolutions, to which the Lebanese Government remains committed, in particular the entirety of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), which is based on Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978),

In the light of the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 7 September 2020,

Decides:

1. To reaffirm full solidarity with Lebanon; to provide political and economic support to Lebanon and its constitutional institutions, in order to safeguard Lebanese national unity, the security and stability of Lebanon and its sovereignty over its entire territory; to reiterate the right of the Lebanese people to liberate or recover the Lebanese Shab'a Farms, the hills of Kafr Shuba and the Lebanese portion of the town of Ghajar; to uphold their right to use legitimate means to resist any aggression; and to reiterate the need to distinguish between terrorism and legitimate resistance against Israeli occupation, the latter being a right enshrined in international instruments and the principles of international law, and therefore cannot be considered an act of terrorism;

2. To support the call of Lebanon call on the international community to implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), which is based on resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), by putting a definitive end to the violations committed by Israel and its constant threats against Lebanon and its civilian facilities and infrastructure;

3. To reiterate its support for the conclusions adopted by the International Support Group for Lebanon at successive meetings and to welcome the efforts of the international community to establish stability in Lebanon by organizing various meetings and conferences aimed mobilizing support for Lebanon and the Lebanese Army, including, in particular, the Rome and CEDRE (Conférence économique pour le développement, par les réformes et avec les entreprises) conferences and the meetings of the International Support Group for Lebanon; to reaffirm its commitment to supporting Lebanon in the light of the economic, financial and monetary challenges that it is facing, and to providing it with Arab support so that it can overcome the serious difficulties besetting it and avoid their potentially grave repercussions for the stability and security of society;

4. To reiterate its solidarity with and support for Lebanon in the wake of the explosion that occurred in Beirut on 4 August 2020, which caused enormous damage to vital facilities, residential buildings, infrastructure and public and private property, killed and injured thousands of persons, left countless persons missing or displaced and resulted in Beirut being declared a disaster zone because of the serious social and economic challenges that Lebanon is already facing; to stress that the ongoing investigations must determine the circumstances of the explosion and that the perpetrators must be held accountable; to reaffirm its support for Lebanon, its capital and its people and the country's efforts to rebuild what was destroyed and provide relief to the victims; to reiterate the importance of the port of Beirut and its historical role as a trade link and the gateway through which goods and commodities enter the Arab world; to praise the solidarity expressed by Arab States, their haste to provide assistance to Lebanon and the commitments that they made at the international support conference on that was held on 9 August 2020; and to applaud the Secretary-General of the League and Arab officials for visiting Beirut;

5. To commend the national role of the Lebanese Army and security forces in maintaining domestic stability and peace and supporting efforts to extend the sovereignty of the Lebanese State as far as its internationally recognized borders; to pay tribute to the martyrs and the wounded; to commend the sacrifices made by the Lebanese Army in its fight against terrorism and terrorist and takfirist organizations, in particular those mentioned in Security Council resolution [2170 \(2014\)](#) and subsequent relevant resolutions; to welcome the victories of the Lebanese Army against those organizations, the most recent of which was operation Fajr al-Jurud; to commend the highly effective manner in which that victory was achieved, thereby sparing Lebanon from the wickedness and savagery of those organizations, which pose a serious threat to the security and stability of most countries and to noble religious and human concepts and values; to condemn the heinous attacks that have been perpetrated against the Lebanese Army in more than one part of Lebanon; to welcome the assistance provided to Lebanon by friendly States, including, in particular, Saudi Arabia; and to urge all States to strengthen the capacity of the Lebanese Army to fulfil its responsibilities, as it is the cornerstone of security, stability and civil peace in Lebanon;

6. To condemn all of the terrorist acts, armed deployments and terrorist bombings that have targeted several areas of Lebanon, killing many innocent civilians; to reject all attempts to sow discord, undermine the foundations of coexistence, civil peace and national unity and undermine security and stability; to reiterate the need to combat extremism, fanaticism, takfirism, sectarianism and interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon; to cooperate and coordinate fully in order to counter and eradicate terrorism, and eliminate its sources of funding; and to cooperate in sharing information and expertise, building capacity and holding accountable the perpetrators of terrorist acts and crimes against humanity and those who incite violent and destructive acts and sectarianism, which endanger peace and security, tightening sanctions against them and taking preventive measures in that regard;

7. To support the resistance of Lebanon to the ongoing Israeli aggression, including, in particular, the July 2006 aggression; to pray for God's mercy on the souls of the Lebanese victims; to support Lebanon in the exercise of its legitimate right to defend itself in response to escalating Israeli threats and the repeated violation by Israel of the sovereignty of Lebanon, such as the recent overflight by two drones above a suburb of the Lebanese capital, Beirut; to reiterate that the Lebanese people's cohesion and unity in responding to and resisting the Israeli aggression are a guarantee of the country's future, security and stability; to characterize Israeli crimes as war crimes whose perpetrators must be prosecuted; to hold Israel fully responsible for its attacks and to compel it to compensate the Lebanese Republic and its citizens; and to welcome United Nations General Assembly resolutions concerning the oil slick on Lebanese shores, the most recent being resolution [74/208](#) of 19 December 2019, in which the Assembly requires Israel to provide financial compensation for the damage caused to Lebanon when Israel bombed the Jiyeh electric power plant during the July 2006 war;

8. To condemn Israeli land, sea and air violations of Lebanese sovereignty, of which more than 15,000 have been committed over that past 13 years, including:

- The daily and repeated violations of Lebanese airspace carried out using warplanes and drones, some of which have recently violated airspace deep inside Lebanese territory, proceeding as far as the capital, Beirut, in a blatant attack against the security, stability and sovereignty of Lebanon;
- Actions taken by Israel in the field to build a concrete separation wall along the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine, in the western and eastern sectors. Israel is building that wall not only along the Blue Line, which Lebanon considers to be a line of withdrawal, not a final border, but also in occupied Lebanese territory, in a clear act of aggression against the territory and sovereignty of Lebanon and in violation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). The construction of the wall therefore is an act of provocation aimed at changing landmarks and imposing a new reality that could ultimately threaten stability in southern Lebanon and give rise to undesirable consequences;
- The recent bombardment of civilian homes in southern Lebanon;
- The Israeli penetration of Lebanese society through the planting of agents and propagation of espionage networks, which have attempted to carry out assassinations in Lebanese territory;
- Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereign and economic rights in its territorial waters and exclusive economic zone and its oil and gas resources located in its maritime areas;
- The all-out electronic warfare that Israel is waging against the Lebanese Republic, as evidenced by the noticeable increase in the number of towers, antennas and devices for observation, spying and surveillance, all of which are intended for piracy and espionage against all Lebanese communication and data networks;
- Israel's refusal to hand over complete, accurate information and maps pertaining to the locations of all unexploded ordnance, including the quantity and the types of cluster bombs that it dropped indiscriminately on populated civilian areas during its attack on Lebanon in the summer of 2006;

9. To underscore the following points:

- There is a need to safeguard Lebanon's unique pluralistic formula, which is based on equality between Muslims and Christians, religious coexistence, dialogue, tolerance and mutual acceptance; and to condemn its diametric

antithesis, namely, the nihilist terrorist organizations, whose crimes against humanity mimic Israel's exclusionary policies based on the Jewish character of the State and its hostile actions against Muslims and Christians;

- The Council welcomes the initiative that the President of the Lebanese Republic, General Michel Aoun, launched at the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, in which he sought support for the nomination of Lebanon to host the Academy for Human Encounters and Dialogue, which will serve as a permanent centre for dialogue among different civilizations and religions; to express its support for General Assembly resolution 73/344, which the Assembly adopted on 16 September 2019 at its seventy-third session; and to support efforts to establish that academy in Lebanon;
  - Lebanese constitutional institutions must be supported in their policy of promoting Lebanon's Arab and international presence and spreading its message of cultural diversity, particularly in confronting Israel. Minorities must remain indigenous and fundamental components of the social fabric of the States in the region; minority rights must be safeguarded, attacks against minorities by terrorist groups must be prevented and crimes committed against minorities must be characterized as crimes against humanity;
  - The constitutional institutions of Lebanon must be supported in complying with their constitutional obligation to reject resettlement and uphold the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes. The Palestinian people and leadership deserve credit for their unequivocal and consistent rejection of the resettlement of Palestinian refugees in host countries, in particular in Lebanon. States and international organizations must shoulder fully their responsibilities and contribute regularly and without interruption to the funding of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. They must also provide further funding for the reconstruction of the Nahr el-Bared camp, pay to the Treasury of the Lebanese State the sums owed for electricity and infrastructure depletion and compensate private property owners on whose land in Lebanese territory temporary camps were established;
  - The Lebanese authorities comply with the authoritative international resolutions and are striving to achieve justice in the assassination of the late Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and members of his entourage, and they are doing so without politicization or reprisal and in a manner that would not adversely affect the stability, unity and civil peace of Lebanon;
  - The Lebanese Government must be supported in its efforts to follow up on the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two associates, Sheikh Muhammad Ya'qub and the journalist Abbas Badrudin, in order to free them, to hold accountable officials of the former Libyan regime and to close the case;
10. To welcome the following:
- The efforts of the Lebanese authorities to overcome various economic, financial, monetary, social and environmental challenges, with a view to addressing the current situation, improving the performance of institutions on the basis of the rule of law and good governance, and protecting the interests of the Lebanese people and its aspirations for stability and prosperity;
  - The reaffirmation by the President of the Republic in his inauguration speech of the unified position of the Lebanese people and its commitment to the country's domestic tranquillity, which protects it against the fire that is raging around it in the region. Moreover, the Council expresses satisfaction at the commitment he made to respect the charter of the League of Arab States, in particular

article 8 thereof, and welcomes the adoption by Lebanon of an independent foreign policy that is founded on the supreme interest of Lebanon and respect for international law. The Council furthermore welcomes the Ba'abda Document, which was issued on 22 June 2017;

- The efforts of the Lebanese Government and people to host displaced Syrians, despite the country's limited resources. The Council reiterates the need to assist Lebanon in that regard, and to share the burden, including the numbers of refugees involved, and stem the growth of the problem. It further reiterates the need to emphasize that the presence of those displaced persons is temporary, given that Lebanon refuses to assimilate or integrate them in any way into host communities and that Lebanon, in the light of the existential threat that this issue poses to the country, strives to ensure that the issue is addressed as a matter of priority in any proposed solution to the Syrian crisis and that every effort is made to ensure they are returned to their homes as soon as possible, because that is the only sustainable solution to the question of displaced Syrians in Lebanon. The Council commends the intensive efforts of the Lebanese Government to reduce the number of displaced Syrians in Lebanon, guarantee the security of both Lebanese and Syrians and reduce the burden borne by the Lebanese people and its economy, as Lebanon finds itself on the brink of a social, economic and security cataclysm that threatens its very existence;
- The steps taken by Lebanese authorities to begin drilling for oil and to exercise the sovereign right of Lebanon to exploit its natural resources. The Council rejects and condemns the threats to Lebanon made by Israel, which is attempting to prevent Lebanon from exercising its sovereignty over its territorial waters and claiming that block 9 of the national waters of Lebanon belongs to Israel, a claim that is contrary to the established facts that Lebanon has documented with the relevant international authorities proving that aforementioned block is an integral part of Lebanese territorial waters;
- The tireless and ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States in support of the Lebanese Republic, in consultation with the Arab States, Lebanese constitutional institutions and various political forces, with a view to enhancing stability and promoting sustainable economic growth in Lebanon, which will safeguard the unity, security and stability of the country, and enable it to address threats.

(Resolution 8536 — 154th ordinary session — second meeting — 9 September 2020)

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The State of Libya believes that the paragraph concerning the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his companions pre-empts the outcomes of the investigation and the conclusions at which the Libyan and Lebanese judicial committees might arrive. Therefore, in view of the failure to respond to the request made by Libya to restore the wording of the paragraph to wording used in resolution 7163, adopted on 3 March 2020 at the 133rd ordinary session, Libya enters a reservation strictly with respect to paragraph nine, point six, of the present resolution and affirms its support for all other paragraphs of the resolution.

## Arab affairs and national security

### Developments in the situation in Syria

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on the intersessional activities of the Secretariat,

Recalling previous resolutions of the League of Arab States at the summit level, of which the most recent was resolution 752 of the Tunis summit (30th ordinary session) dated 31 March 2019, and all resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level in that regard, of which the most recent was resolution 8470 (153rd ordinary session) of 4 March 2020, as well as resolution 8454 of the Council (extraordinary session) of 12 October 2019 on Turkish aggression against Syria, resolution 8106 (extraordinary session) of 19 December 2016, resolution 8105 of the Council at the level of permanent representatives (extraordinary session) of 15 December 2016, and the statements of the Arab ministerial committee on Syria,

Reiterating its total solidarity with the Syrian people in the face of the serious violations perpetrated against them, threatening their existence and the lives of innocent civilians,

Reaffirming its full commitment to supporting the aspirations of the Syrian people for freedom, justice and equality, and their inalienable right to choose a system of governance that will enable them to realize their hopes and aspirations to establish peace and security throughout Syria,

Welcoming again international efforts to create conditions conducive to the resumption of negotiations between the opposition and the Syrian Government towards the formation of a transitional governing body with full executive authority, in accordance with the communiqué of the first Geneva conference of 30 June 2012 and the statements issued by the International Syria Support Group, and with a view to fulfilling the aspirations of all Syrian groups and factions,

In the light of the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 7 September 2020,

Decides:

1. To reiterate its abiding commitment to preserving the sovereignty, unity, stability and territorial integrity of Syria, in accordance with the Charter of the League of Arab States and its principles;
2. To reiterate its unwavering position that the only possible solution to the Syrian crisis is a political solution achieved through the participation of all Syrian factions, in accordance with the communiqué of the first Geneva conference dated 30 June 2012 and the resolutions adopted and communiqués issued in that regard, in particular Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#); to support the efforts of the United Nations to resume the Geneva discussions and arrive at a political solution to the Syrian crisis; and to reiterate that the League of Arab States is determined to support United Nations efforts and ensure the success of the United Nations-sponsored Syrian negotiations aimed at ending the conflict and establishing peace and stability in Syria;
3. To express its profound concern at the repercussions of the ongoing military action and the violations of the de-escalation agreements in various parts of



Syria, despite the ceasefire agreement that was concluded on 29 December 2016; to call upon the parties that have not committed to implementing the agreement to comply with the mechanism aimed at reinforcing the ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions; to welcome Security Council resolution 2336 (2016) of 31 December 2016, in which the Security Council calls for a ceasefire in Syria; to emphasize that international efforts to solidify the ceasefire must be redoubled, as the cessation of fire is an important step towards achieving a political solution in accordance with the communiqué of the first Geneva conference and Security Council resolution 2254 (2015); and to condemn the serious military escalations and foreign interventions that have occurred recently throughout Syria;

4. To condemn the Turkish aggression against Syrian territory, because it is a clear breach of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions, and because it is a direct threat to Arab national security and to international peace and security; and to call upon Turkey to end its aggression and withdraw immediately and unconditionally its forces from all Syrian territory, in order to support the ongoing efforts to reach political solutions to the Syrian crisis;

5. To warn of the catastrophic consequences of the military escalation in Idlib Governorate and its repercussions for more than three million Syrian citizens, half of whom are displaced persons; to express concern at the ongoing military violations in the de-escalation zone in Idlib; to warn of the repercussions of those violations, which could undermine efforts to achieve the desired political settlement; to call on the parties concerned to commit to the de-escalation agreement; and to emphasize that the international community must fully discharge its responsibilities by dealing wholeheartedly with the threat of terrorism in Idlib Governorate and, in particular, by preventing terrorists from spreading across Syrian territory or infiltrating other Arab States;

6. To express concern that any new arrangements on the ground could pose a threat to the unity of Syrian territory and constitute a breach of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, and could pave the way for further interventions in Syrian affairs and consolidate the presence of the forces from States of the region in Syrian territory; to firmly reject any attempt to impose demographic changes that could entrench a new situation in Syrian territory, as that would contravene international agreements and law, particularly as regards relations with neighbouring States; and to deem any such endeavour a grave threat to the unity and sovereignty of Syria over all its national territory, and a threat to security and stability in the region;

7. To express grave concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation and the increasing waves of displacement in north-west Syria in the wake of ongoing military operations deliberately targeting hospitals, civilian facilities and infrastructure; to commend the work of the penholders for the Syrian humanitarian issue, namely Kuwait, Belgium and Germany, in shedding light on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the areas under military attack in north-west Syria; to express its appreciation to Kuwait, the Arab member of the Security Council at the time, for delivering a statement on behalf of the penholders for the Syrian humanitarian issue; to commend the statement delivered on behalf of those penholders at the Security Council meeting of 16 August 2019 concerning developments in north-west Syria, a statement that condemned any attack by any party against civilians, infrastructure and health-care facilities;

8. To welcome the outcomes of the second Riyadh meeting, hosted by Saudi Arabia on 22 and 23 November 2017, in which a unified delegation of the Syrian opposition was formed, comprising the three platforms (namely, Riyadh, Cairo and Moscow), to participate, as part of the Syrian negotiating committee, in the Geneva

discussions and in the work of the Constitutional Committee to be convened by the United Nations, with a view to finding a political solution to the Syrian crisis through a Syrian-led political process based on the first Geneva communiqué, the statements issued by the International Syria Support Group and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council;

9. To express support for the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Syria, Geir Pedersen, to restart the political process; to welcome the start of the work of the Constitutional Committee in Geneva on 30 October 2019 and the formation of the mini-Constitutional Committee, which has held its first meeting with support from the United Nations; to call on the Special Envoy to continue his efforts to restart as soon as possible the work of the Committee, which met in Geneva on 24 August 2020 but has since been suspended owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and to call on all parties to cooperate with the Special Envoy's efforts in that regard;

10. To welcome the adoption by the United Nations Security Council on 11 July 2020 of its resolution [2533 \(2020\)](#), in which it decides to renew the decisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of its resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#) for a period of twelve months, that is, until 10 July 2021, excluding the border crossings of Ramtha, Ya'rubiyah and Bab al-Salam; to welcome the efforts made by Kuwait, the Arab member of the Security Council at the time, including, most recently, its cooperation with Sweden towards the adoption to Security Council resolution [2449 \(2018\)](#) of 13 December 2018, in addition to resolution [2401 \(2018\)](#) of 24 February 2018, in which the Security Council demanded that all parties cease hostilities throughout Syria for at least 30 days in order to enable the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid, and endorsed the five-point plan put forward by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs; to call on all parties concerned to comply with the resolution and commit immediately to the ceasefire throughout Syria; and to welcome the adoption of Security Council resolution [2393 \(2017\)](#) of 19 December 2017, submitted by Egypt, in which the Security Council renewed the mechanism for the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Syria;

11. To express concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Hawl camp near the Syrian-Iraqi border and in the Rukban camp near the border with Jordan, which could exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Syria; to call on international and Syrian actors to assume their responsibility by allowing the securing of corridors for the delivery of humanitarian assistance from within Syria; to emphasize that it is important for the inhabitants of Rukban to return to their own areas; to call on the international community to provide more emergency humanitarian assistance in order to address the acute displacement crisis that is unfolding in Syria owing to the intensification of combat to eliminate the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL); to express grave concern at the repercussions for security, stability and Arab neighbourly relations; to emphasize that southern Syria must be stabilized in order for refugees to be able to return voluntarily to their homeland and to stem the deterioration of the security situation in southern Syria;

12. To take note of the efforts made at the Astana meetings to establish a ceasefire, including the agreement on de-escalation zones that was reached in the fourth round of Astana meetings on 4 May 2017; to welcome the efforts of Egypt to conclude two agreements on the establishment of de-escalation zones in the eastern Ghutah area of Rif Dimashq Governorate and in the northern countryside of Homs Governorate in July 2017, with a view to sparing Syrian lives and expediting humanitarian access; to call on the guarantor States of the agreement to commit to its implementation and ensure that all foreign armed militias leave Syrian territory in order to help support and make a success of the negotiating process under way in

Geneva under United Nations auspices; to welcome also the signing on 7 July 2017 of the Amman agreement among Jordan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America to support the ceasefire in southern Syria, resulting in consensus on a de-escalation zone in southern Syria as a step towards a comprehensive end to hostilities and the conclusion of a political agreement that would preserve the sovereignty, stability, unity and integrity of Syrian territory, in accordance with the first Geneva communiqué and Security Council resolution 2254 (2015), and that would be acceptable to the Syrian people; to reaffirm its commitment to preserving the unity of Syrian territory; to reject any arrangements that could jeopardize that principle; to express deep concern at the displacement and demographic change under way in Syria; and to emphasize that any arrangements for that purpose must be temporary in nature;

13. To urge the International Syria Support Group to intensify its efforts and continue working towards implementation of the provisions of the first Geneva communiqué, the statements issued by the Group on 30 October 2015, 14 November 2015 and 17 May 2016, as well as the Munich statement of 11 February 2016, and to work to comply with the agreed principles and mechanisms set out in the statements, particularly as regards the mechanism to establish a ceasefire and bring an end to hostilities and the mechanism for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and to create an environment conducive negotiations in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations with a view to forming a transitional justice body with full executive powers;

14. To express grave concern at intelligence pointing to the use of chemical weapons in several areas and towns in Syria; to condemn all operations against innocent civilians, particularly crimes using chemical weapons, which could amount to war crimes and are barbaric acts contrary to international law and international humanitarian law; to insist that those who committed or participated in the crimes be handed over to the international justice system;

15. To condemn terrorist operations and crimes committed against civilians in various parts of Syria by such terrorist organizations and groups as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front, which is affiliated with Al-Qaida, and other terrorist organizations;

16. To request the Group of Arab States in Geneva to coordinate closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in order to take all necessary measures to halt the ongoing human rights violations being perpetrated by the Syrian regime, including by providing the necessary protection to children and women, and preventing hospitals and civilian institutions from being targeted, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

17. To commend His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, for hosting the first, second and third donor conferences in support of the humanitarian situation in Syria held in Kuwait in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively; to urge donor States to fulfil promptly the pledges made at those conferences and at the conference held in London in 2016, the first Brussels conference of 2017, the second Brussels conference of 2018, the third Brussels conference of 2019 and the fourth Brussels conference of 2020, in particular those related to providing the necessary support to Syria's neighbouring Arab States and other Arab States that are hosting Syria refugees and displaced persons, in order to help them bear the burdens of providing relief and urgent humanitarian aid, pending their dignified and safe return to Syria;

18. To request the Secretary-General of the League to continue consultations and contacts with the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Envoy for Syria and with the relevant stakeholders, in order to intensify efforts to create a

climate conducive to the resumption of the Geneva rounds of negotiations aimed at determining the steps needed for a transitional political solution to the Syrian crisis, in accordance with the communiqué of the first Geneva Conference dated 30 June 2012, the statements of the International Syria Support Group, and the relevant Security Council resolutions;

19. To request the Arab ministerial committee on Syria and the Secretary-General to continue efforts and consultations on the situation in Syria with the relevant regional and international parties, and to report on the outcomes of those efforts at the next session of the Council of the League at ministerial level.

(Resolution 8537 — 154th ordinary session — second meeting — 9 September 2020)

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Qatar reiterates its long-standing position that the sovereignty of Syria must be maintained. However, the enthusiasm and vigour that has been shown is rather missing when it comes to Arab States in which legitimate authority and sovereignty are being violated, either by completely illegitimate forces or forces that are financed, regrettably, by Arab states, and in the absence of a request from the legitimate government, and yet our Council does nothing. Instead, it justifies the intervention by Arab States in the internal affairs of other Arab States under the pretext that they are protecting themselves against terrorism, and it prohibits other States from doing so, thereby establishing a policy of double standards. Accordingly, Qatar expresses its reservation with regard to paragraph 4.

Somalia wishes to express a reservation strictly to the fact that a specific country is condemned. Somalia reiterates the importance of preserving the sovereignty and territorial unity and integrity of Syria, in accordance with international conventions and international law.

Note: Lebanon reaffirms the policy of non-involvement in internal conflicts in brotherly Arab States, and calls for the adoption of consensual political solutions, in order to preserve the unity, sovereignty and stability of Arab States and to fulfil the aspirations of their peoples.

Libya enters a reservation with respect to the present resolution.

## Arab affairs and national security

### Developments in the situation in Libya

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on the intersessional activities of the Secretariat,
- Resolution 753, adopted on 31 March 2019 at the 30th ordinary session of the Council of the League at summit level, which was held in Tunisia,
- Previous Council resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 8471 (153rd ordinary session), dated 4 March 2020, and the communication from the Permanent Mission of Libya,

In the light of the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 7 September 2020,

Decides:

1. To reaffirm all resolutions adopted previously by the Council, the most recent of which are resolution 753, adopted on 31 March 2019 at the 30th ordinary session of the Council of the League at summit level, which was held in Tunisia; resolution 8471 (153rd ordinary session), adopted at the ministerial level on 4 March 2020; and resolution 8523, which was adopted at the ministerial level at its extraordinary session on 23 June 2020;

2. To reaffirm that it remains committed to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya and that it rejects external interference;

3. To call for a comprehensive political solution to the Libyan crisis; to reaffirm the Council's support for full implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement signed in Skhirat on 17 December 2015, as it alone constitutes the terms of reference for a political settlement in Libya; and to reaffirm the role of all legitimate institutions under the Libyan Political Agreement; to reiterate its rejection of and underscore the need to prevent any type of external interference by any actor that facilitates the movement to Libya of foreign terrorist fighters and the violation of international arms embargoes, thereby threatening the security and stability of Libya and the region, as well as international peace;

5. To welcome the statements issued by the President of the Presidency Council, Faiez Serraj, and Speaker Agilah Salih regarding a ceasefire throughout the territory of Libya; to call for an agreement to be reached, without delay, on permanent and comprehensive arrangements to implement and verify compliance with the ceasefire by completing the discussions of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations; and to reiterate the need to complete the Berlin Conference processes on both the economic track, in relation to which the Committee of Libyan Economic Experts has an important role to play, and the political track, in order to arrive at a comprehensive resolution to the crisis and lay the groundwork for elections that will enable the Libyan people to choose freely its representatives and transition to building a democratic civil State;

6. To reject and condemn forcefully all crimes and attacks committed against civilians and attacks against civilian targets, regardless of the perpetrator; and to take note of the appointment of the members of the fact-find mission for Libya established by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

7. To reaffirm that all Libyans have a right to the oil resources of Libya; to welcome the ongoing efforts to resume production and export operations at Libyan oil fields and ports; and to reaffirm the need to ensure the security and safety of oil installations, and that oil revenues are distributed in a fair and transparent manner;

8. To express full support for the efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya to arrive at a settlement to the crisis along the three tracks being pursued in the light of the outcomes of the Berlin Conference and the provisions of Security Council resolution [2510 \(2020\)](#); and to urge the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate swiftly his Special Envoy, in order to avoid the repercussions of the vacuum that would result from the failure to make progress on all tracks;

9. To reaffirm the central and vital role of the neighbours of Libya; and to welcome the statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting of the ministers for foreign affairs of the States neighbouring Libya, which was held on 23 January 2020 in Algiers under the auspices of the President of Algeria, Abdelmadjid Tebboune;

10. To reaffirm the essential role of the League of Arab States in promoting consultation and coordination among member States, with a view to reaching a comprehensive political settlement of the Libyan crisis, in pursuing efforts within the Quartet and in ensuring coordinating with other partners concerned with Libyan affairs, in particular the African Union and the European Union;

11. To request the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of this resolution and report thereon to the Council, and to request that he continue his contacts and consultations with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Libya and the various Libyan parties, and that he promote the role of the League of Arab States, in order to overcome remaining impediments to the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement signed in the city of Skhirat, Morocco, under the aegis of the United Nations.

(Resolution 8538 — 154th ordinary session — second meeting — 9 September 2020)

## Arab affairs and national security

### Developments in the situation in Yemen

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on the intersessional activities of the Secretariat,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

In the light of the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 7 September 2020,

Decides:

1. To reaffirm that it remains committed to the unity, sovereignty, security, stability and territorial integrity of Yemen, and that it rejects any interference in its internal affairs;

2. To reaffirms its continued support for the legitimate Government of Yemen, led by President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour;

3. To support the position of the Yemeni Government and its commitment to the three terms of reference, namely, the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementing mechanism, the outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue Conference and Security Council resolutions resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#) and other relevant international resolutions, as the basis for arriving at a comprehensive and enduring political settlement in Yemen; to welcome the cooperation of the Yemeni Government and the positive stance that it has taken with regard to international proposals and resolutions, and the insistence of the Government on pursuing enduring peace in Yemen; to support the actions taken by the legitimate Government to normalize the situation, suppress the coup, restore State power, enable the Government to fulfil its constitutionally mandated functions, alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people, mitigate the catastrophic economic and social repercussions of the war, establish security and stability, pursue development, reconstruction and recovery, and counter terrorism and extremism;

4. To express its support for the efforts of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Yemen, Mr. Martin Griffiths, to resume and ensure the success of the political process on the basis of the agreed terms of reference.

5. To hail efforts aimed at implementing the Riyadh Agreement, signed on 5 November 2019, as that Agreement represents an important step towards consolidating efforts, maintaining the security, stability and unity of Yemen and its territorial integrity, addressing challenges and restoring the legitimate State in Yemen; and to welcome the announcement of a mechanism to speed up the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement and the efforts of Saudi Arabia in that regard;

6. To welcome the initiative of the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen to implement the ceasefire for which the Secretary-General of the United Nations called in order to address the repercussions of the spread of the novel coronavirus, and to welcome also the response of the Yemeni Government to that initiative; and to call for an immediate cessation of all hostilities throughout Yemen.

7. To welcome the desire and commitment of the Yemeni Government to implement fully the Stockholm Agreement, including the Agreement on the City of Hudaydah and the Ports of Hudaydah, Salif, and Ra's Isa, the executive mechanism

on activating the prisoner exchange agreement and the Statement of Understanding on Ta'izz; to reaffirm that the Houthis must be compelled to implement fully the provisions of that Agreement, including their withdrawal from the port and the city of Hudaydah, as a first step towards establishing true and lasting peace in Yemen; and to call upon the international community and the Security Council to provide international guarantees that will prevent the Houthis from further delaying and obstructing the implementation of those agreements and that will put an end to their rejection of the principle of withdrawal and the opening of humanitarian corridors and their continued obstruction of the work of United Nations personnel;

8. To condemn all human rights violations committed by the forces that perpetrated the coup, including killings, abductions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention of women, sexual assault, bombing of houses, recruitment of children, targeting of hospitals and places of worship, use of schools and hospitals for military purposes, indiscriminate shelling of residential areas, killing of defenceless civilians, looting of humanitarian and relief aid, imposition of levies on humanitarian relief projects, systematic destruction of health-care institutions and harassment of health-care workers, all of which has resulted in the spread of disease and the eruption of epidemics and created severe shortages of food, medicine and medical services;

9. To warn of the danger posed by the deterioration of the humanitarian, health and economic situations in Yemen; to call for increased humanitarian and medical assistance to the Yemeni people and the provision without delay of aid to Yemen, in particular to support the health-care sector and provide it with the supplies and equipment that it needs in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; to support environmental clean-up initiatives in the various Governorates and efforts aimed at preventing the Houthis from impeding the flow of humanitarian assistance and at facilitating the delivery of such assistance to beneficiaries; to reiterate the need to address the danger posed by epidemics and the spread of disease; to call for assistance in resolving the tragedy of displaced Yemenis; to appeal for the continuation of international efforts to put an immediate end to the recruitment children; to condemn the planting of mines; and to urge the international community to put an end to the planting of mines and to provide assistance for mine clearance;

10. To call upon the international community and the United Nations to press the coup perpetrators to stop making arrests, impeding humanitarian work and stealing relief aid, and to push them to release detainees, prisoners, abductees, political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, including, first and foremost, journalists and activists;

11. To express its appreciation to the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, for supporting the legitimate Government, to the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, for its work in Yemen, and to the Saudi Arabian Programme for the Development and Reconstruction of Yemen and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, for supporting relief and humanitarian assistance programmes and rehabilitation of infrastructure and restoration of services in liberated areas; and to express its gratitude to all Arab countries for the humanitarian assistance and relief aid that they have provided to Yemen and its legitimate Government;

12. To call upon the international community not to ignore the fact that the causes of the humanitarian disaster are the actions of the Houthi militias, which have exploited the humanitarian situation in order to coerce the international community and international organizations, and which have looted aid and used it to finance their war machine and consolidate their illegal authority in the areas that they control;



13. To express its appreciation to Saudi Arabia for hosting, in partnership with the United Nations, the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen that was held on 2 June 2020, and to those countries that pledged to provide \$1.35 billion in assistance as part of the humanitarian response plan for 2020;

14. To express its support for the efforts of the Government and the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen to combat extremism and terrorism; and to reiterate the importance of responding to and addressing the causes and factors, the most significant of which is the coup perpetrated against the State and its legitimate institutions, that have created an environment that has enabled terrorist organizations to spread throughout Yemen;

15. To call upon Iran to comply with international law and pursue a policy of good-neighbourliness; to stop supporting Houthi militias with money and weapons, including by providing the Houthis with shipments of Iranian-made ballistic missile smuggled across the sea; to cease encouraging efforts aimed at undermining the resumption of the political process; not to obstruct international efforts to end the war, violence and terrorism; to stop turning Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen into a launch pad from which to fire ballistic missile at neighbouring countries; and not to threaten international maritime traffic in the Bab al-Mandab strait and the Red Sea, as that poses a serious threat to the security and stability of Yemen, its neighbouring States and the region and constitutes a clear violation of Security Council resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#);

16. To condemn the continued refusal of the Houthi militias to give a United Nations technical team access to the oil tanker *Safer*, which is anchored near the Houthi-controlled port of Ra's Isa in Hudaydah (western Yemen), in order to assess the condition of, repair and unload oil from the tanker and to prevent an environmental disaster with grave consequences in the event of an oil spill in the Red Sea region, the Gulf of Aden and surrounding areas; and to call upon the international community and the United Nations to put pressure on the Houthis to allow, without delay or conditions, the United Nations technical team to carry out its task.

(Resolution 8539 — 154th ordinary session — second meeting — 9 September 2020)

### **Arab affairs and national security**

The occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on the intersessional activities of the Secretariat,

Guided by previous summit resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 757 of the Tunis summit (30th ordinary session) dated 31 March 2019, regarding the occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa,

Reaffirming the communiqués issued and the resolutions adopted on the same matter by the Council at the ministerial level, the most recent of which was resolution 8473 (153rd ordinary session) dated 4 March 2020,

In the light of the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 7 September 2020,

Decides:

1. To reaffirm without qualification the absolute sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and to support all peaceful measures and means adopted by the United Arab Emirates to regain its sovereignty over the occupied islands;

2. To denounce the continued consolidation by the Iranian Government of its occupation of the three islands and its violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, which can only undermine security and stability in the region and pose a threat to international peace and security;

3. To condemn the building by the Iranian Government of housing facilities in which to settle Iranians on the three occupied United Arab Emirates islands;

4. To condemn the Iranian military manoeuvres being conducted also on the three occupied islands of the United Arab Emirates, namely, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and in those islands' territorial waters, airspace, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone, which constitute an inseparable part of the United Arab Emirates; and to request Iran to desist from such violations and acts of provocation, which constitute interference in the internal affairs of an independent, sovereign State, do not promote confidence-building and threaten the security and safety of regional and international navigation in the Arabian Gulf;

5. To condemn the opening by Iran of two offices on the island of Abu Musa, which belongs to the United Arab Emirates, and to call upon Iran to remove those illegitimate facilities and respect the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territory;

6. To denounce and condemn the visits by senior officials to the occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and to condemn all aggressive measures taken by Iran, because they violate the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territory and are inconsistent with attempts to find a peaceful settlement; and to call upon Iran to desist from taking such provocative steps and to adopt constructive positions that build

confidence, with a view to arriving at a just solution to the question of the occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates;

7. To commend the United Arab Emirates on its initiative to find a peaceful and just settlement to the question of the three occupied islands (the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa) with the Islamic Republic of Iran;

8. To appeal once again to the Iranian Government to end its occupation of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates, refrain from trying to impose a fait accompli by force, desist from establishing any installations there for the purpose of modifying the islands' demographic composition, revoke all measures unilaterally taken and remove all installations built by Iran on the three Arab islands, inasmuch as such measures and claims are null and void, lack any legal effect, do not detract from the established right of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands and are acts that run counter to the provisions of international law and the Geneva Convention of 1949; and to call upon the Iranian Government to adopt peaceful means for resolving the dispute over them in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice;

9. To express the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will reconsider its position of rejecting the effort to find a peaceful solution to the question of the three occupied islands of the United Arab Emirates either through direct, earnest negotiations or through recourse to the International Court of Justice;

10. To call upon Iran to translate its stated desire for improved relations with the Arab countries and for dialogue and détente into practical measures, both in word and in deed, in the form of a genuine response to the earnest appeals launched by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and by the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab States, international groups, friendly nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, calling for a solution to the dispute over the three occupied islands by peaceful means in accordance with customary practice and the covenants and rules of international law, either through direct, earnest negotiations or through recourse to the International Court of Justice, with a view to building trust and enhancing security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region;

11. To call upon all Arab States, in their communications with Iran, to undertake to raise the issue of the occupation by Iran of the three islands in order to underline the necessity of ending it on the grounds that the three islands are occupied Arab territories;

12. To inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council of the importance of maintaining the issue on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized until Iran ends its occupation of the three Arab islands and the United Arab Emirates regains full sovereignty over them;

13. To request the Secretary-General of the League to follow up this matter and report to the Council of the League at its next ordinary session.

(Resolution 8540 — 154th ordinary session — second meeting — 9 September 2020)

## **Arab affairs and national security**

Safety of navigation and energy supplies in the Arabian Gulf region

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level,

Recalling Council resolution 8474 (153rd ordinary session) adopted at the ministerial level on 4 March 2020,

Taking note of the statements and announcements concerning the security of navigation and energy supplies in the Arabian Gulf region that were issued in the course of the extraordinary summit meetings of the Council of the League of Arab States and the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which were held in Mecca on 31 May 2019, and all relevant statements and resolutions of the Council of League,

Taking note of the final communiqué and the Mecca Declaration concerning terrorist attacks against Saudi Arabia and acts of sabotage in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates, both of which were adopted at fourteenth Islamic summit held in Mecca on 31 May 2019,

Taking note of the terrorist attack against Saudi Aramco oil installations in Buqayq and Khurays, Saudi Arabia, that occurred on 14 September 2019,

Taking note of the seizure by the terrorist Houthi militias of three ships along the Red Sea coast on 18 November 2019,

Taking note of the announcement on 6 January 2020 of the establishment of the Council of Arab and African States Bordering the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden,

Recalling all international laws concerning the safety of navigation, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Recalling the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 7 September 2020,

Decides:

1. To reaffirm the principle of freedom of navigation in international waters, in accordance with established rules of international law and conventions concerning the law of the sea;

2. To demand that the safety and security of maritime navigation in the Arabian Gulf, the Sea of Oman and the Red Sea and the security of energy supply lines be ensured;

3. To condemn all attacks against the security and safety of navigation, offshore installations, energy supplies and oil pipelines and installations in the Arabian Gulf and other waterways, because such acts threaten the security of Arab States, undermine Arab national security and are detrimental to international peace and security;

4. To condemn the attacks on oil tankers and commercial shipping in the Arabian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, including the attack of 12 May 2019 on two Saudi Arabian oil tankers, a Norwegian oil tanker and a cargo ship of the United Arab Emirates in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates, and the attack that occurred on 13 June 2019 against two oil tankers in the Sea of Oman, one bearing the flag of Panama and the other bearing the flag of the Marshall Islands, as such criminal acts pose a threat to safety and security of international maritime navigation;

5. To condemn the attack carried out by the terrorist Houthi militias on 14 May 2019, using exploding drones, against the pumping stations of Dawadimi and Afif in Saudi Arabia, in an endeavour to disrupt global oil supplies;

6. To condemn the Iranian authorities for interdicting vessels in the Straits of Hormuz and the Arabian Gulf, in a clear violation of international law; and to call upon Iran to refrain from such hostile acts, comply with international law and respect the freedom of maritime navigation;

7. To condemn the terrorist act of sabotage carried out on 14 September 2019 against Saudi Aramco oil installations in Buqayq and Khurays, in Saudi Arabia, using drones and cruise missiles, an alarming act of escalation intended to undermine the stability of Saudi Arabia and the region and disrupt global energy supplies and the global economy;

8. To condemn the Houthi militias for interdicting three ships on the Red Sea coast on 18 November 2019, one of which was the Saudi Arabian-flagged vessel *Rabigh-3*; and to call on the militias to refrain from such practices, which pose a threat to maritime security and freedom;

9. To condemn the attack carried out by three Iranian vessels in the territorial waters of Saudi Arabia in June 2020; and to reiterate that Saudi Arabia will not allow any violation of its territorial waters, as such acts endanger the safety of waterways and the economy, and hence Arab national security;

10. To express its support for the measures taken by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to respond to hostile conduct and actions aimed at endangering the security of maritime navigation and energy supplies in the Arabian Gulf region, and to keep the region, its people and its residents safe; to support investigations to identify those responsible for such acts of hostility and bring them to justice; to endorse the findings of the investigation conducted by the United Arab Emirates with international partners into the attack on the four ships in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates, attacks that are thought to have been carried out by a party acting on behalf of a State;

11. To welcome the announcement on 6 January 2020 of the establishment of the Council of Arab and African States Bordering the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, which will help strengthen mechanisms for coordination and consultation among the littoral States of the Red Sea and States of the region regarding ways to address the challenges facing the region and to secure its waterways; to express its appreciation to Saudi Arabia for hosting the headquarters of that Council; and to commend the efforts of the States that participated in the establishment of the Council, which will consolidate security and stability in the region;

12. To call upon the Security Council to assume its responsibility to guarantee the freedom, safety and security of maritime navigation, and the security and stability of the region, and to take a firm stand against any activities or endeavours to threaten the freedom of navigation or to disrupt energy supplies in the region;

13. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of the present resolution and submit a report on developments relating to the safety of navigation and energy supplies in the region to the Council at its next ordinary session.

(Resolution 8541 — 154th ordinary session — second meeting — 9 September 2020)

## Arab affairs and national security

Unified Arab position on the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on the intersessional activities of the Secretariat,
- Communication 3/*jim*/4/3738, dated 6 September 2020, from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq,

Reaffirming all Council resolutions adopted at the summit level, the most recent of which is resolution 759 (30th ordinary session), adopted on 31 March 2019 at the Tunis summit, and its resolutions adopted at the ministerial level, the most recent of which is resolution 8475 (153rd ordinary ), adopted on 4 March 2020,

In the light of the outcome of the meeting of the Council at the level of permanent representatives that took place on 7 September 2020,

Decides:

1. To reaffirm the provisions of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League at the ministerial level, adopted by the Council at its extraordinary session on 24 December 2015, condemning the incursion of Turkish forces into Iraqi territory, an act that constitutes a violation of the sovereignty of Iraq and a threat to Arab national security, and demanding that the Turkish Government withdraw its forces immediately and unconditionally;

2. To denounce and condemn the repeated aggressions that Turkey has committed recently against Iraqi territory, killing and wounding several Iraqi officers, soldiers and civilian and causing damage to villages and civilian facilities in the area; to consider those actions to be a violation of the sovereignty and security of Iraq, the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and good neighbourly relations; and to reiterate its support for any measures that Iraq might take to maintain its security and sovereignty;

3. To call upon the States members of the League, in their bilateral relations, to request the Turkish Government to withdraw its forces from Iraqi territory in implementation of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League, adopted at its extraordinary session of 24 December 2015, and to raise the matter in their communications with Turkey;

4. To call upon States members to request the Turkish Government to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq and to stop taking such provocative actions, which undermine confidence-building and threaten the security and stability of the region;

5. To reiterate its support for the Iraqi Government in any measures it may take in accordance with the relevant principles of international law to ensure that the Turkish Government withdraws its forces from Iraqi territory, with a view to consolidating the sovereignty of the Government of Iraq over its entire territory;

6. To request that the Secretary-General of the League continue to monitor implementation of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League, adopted at the extraordinary session of 24 December 2015, and to submit a detailed report to the Council at its next ordinary session;

7. To reiterate that the Arab member of the Security Council should continue to press for the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Iraqi territory and take all necessary measures until such time as those forces have fully withdrawn.

(Resolution 8542 — 154th ordinary session — second meeting — 9 September 2020)

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The State of Qatar enters a reservation to the present resolution.

## Arab affairs and national security

### Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- Communication *jim 'ayn* 1/2/21-*alif*-138) of 27 July 2020, from the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates,
- Council of the League resolution 8518 on Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, adopted on 4 March 2020 at the 153rd ordinary session of the Council at the ministerial level,
- Council of the League resolution 8413, adopted on 10 September 2019 at the 152nd ordinary session of the Council at the ministerial level, and resolution 8475, adopted on 4 March 2020 at the 153rd ordinary session of the Council at the ministerial level, both of which concern a unified Arab position on the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq,
- Council of the League resolution 8470 on developments in the situation in Syria, adopted on 4 March 2020 at the 153rd ordinary session of the Council at the ministerial level,
- Council of the League resolution 8454 on Turkish aggression against Syria, adopted by the Council at the ministerial level on 12 October 2019 at its extraordinary session,
- Council of the League resolution 8471 on developments in the situation in Libya, adopted on 4 March 2020 at the 153rd ordinary session of the Council at the ministerial level,
- Council of the League resolution 8456 on developments in the situation in Libya, adopted by the Council at the level of permanent representatives on 31 December 2019 at its extraordinary session,

Having heard the statements made by ministers, the heads of delegations and the Secretary-General,

Decides:

1. To reaffirm the resolutions adopted by the Council at the ministerial level condemning Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States;
2. To call upon States members to request the Turkish Government to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Arab States and to stop taking such provocative actions, which undermine confidence-building and threaten the security and stability of the region;
3. To reject and condemn the military intervention by Turkey in Libya and the transfer by Turkey of foreign terrorist fighters to Libyan territory, as those actions constitute a direct threat to Arab national security and international peace and security, and a clear violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;
4. To reject and condemn the Turkish aggression against Syrian territory, as that constitutes a clear violation of the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and of the Security Council resolutions in which the Council calls for preserving the unity and independence of Syria, including, in particular resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#); and to consider that aggression to be a direct threat to Arab national security and international peace and security;



5. To reject and condemn the incursion of Turkish forces into Iraqi territory, as that action constitutes an attack against the sovereignty of Iraq and a threat to Arab national security; and to call for a redoubling of efforts to find peaceful solutions for Arab problems and realize security and stability for Arab States without foreign interference, which does not promote stability in the region;

6. To call upon Turkey to withdraw all its forces that are present in the territories of Arab States;

7. To request the Secretary-General of the League to contact the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in order to apprise him of the substance of the present resolution and to have it distributed to the members of the United Nations as a document of the United Nations;

8. To reiterate its instruction to the Group of Arab States in New York that it should examine means of addressing Turkish aggressions against Arab States at various United Nations bodies, in particular the Security Council, and to present its recommendations in that regard to the Council of the League;

9. To welcome the establishment of the Arab ministerial committee on Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, the membership of which comprises Egypt (Chair), the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the Secretary-General, which will follow up on this issue and submit its recommendations to the Council of the League at the ministerial level, in implementation of resolution 8454 adopted by the Council at the ministerial level on 12 October 2019 at its extraordinary session;

10. To take note of the unified Arab strategy for responding to Turkey, which was prepared by the Arab Parliament; and to reiterate importance of the ideas set out therein, which can be built on in order to support a comprehensive Arab strategy for responding to Turkish interference;

11. To include “Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States” as a permanent item on the agenda of the Council of the League at the ministerial level. (Resolution 8543 — 154th ordinary session — second meeting — 9 September 2020)

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Djibouti enters a reservation to the present resolution.

Somalia enters a reservation to the resolution. It reaffirms the importance of preserving the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Arab territory in accordance with international instruments and laws. Somalia believes that diplomatic lines of communication should be opened with the Turkey in order to coordinate ways to combat the armed groups that are undermining security and stability in the region.

Qatar enters a reservation with regard to the resolution entitled “Turkish interference in the internal affairs of Arab States”.

Libya reaffirms its long-standing policy of respecting the sovereignty of States members and refraining from interfering in their internal affairs. It is therefore astonished at the double standards that have been adopted with regard to interference in the internal affairs of Arab States. A justification has been provided for the interference of an Arab State in the internal affairs of another Arab State. The act of interference took the form of a direct attack on Libya, one in which air bombardments claimed civilian lives and targeted State institutions, hospitals and civilian facilities. Double standards are also evident in that Turkey is mentioned by name and accused of interfering in the internal affairs of Arab States, whereas the intervention of other foreign States in Libya is ignored, despite having been documented in the reports of the United Nations Panel of Experts. Libya is mindful of those considerations and rejects the use of resolutions adopted by the Council of the League as a means to settle scores or political disputes between certain States members of the League and other States outside the League. Moreover, the support provided by the Turkish Government to the legitimate Government of Libya is described in the resolution as an act of interference, even though it was extended at the request of the Government of Libya and in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between the two sides. For all those reasons, Libya enters a reservation regarding the text of the present resolution in its entirety.