



# General Assembly Security Council

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The situation in the Middle East

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## Identical letters dated 26 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait would like to inform you that it has received letter No. 5772, dated 18 September 2023, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, containing the decision of the Government of the Republic of Iraq to rescind the security exchange protocol signed by the Kuwaiti navy command and the Iraqi navy command in 2008, as well as the related map, which was approved under the Joint Plan to Ensure the Safety and Regulation of Navigation in Khor Abdullah, signed on 28 December 2014.

My Government categorically rejects that measure, which clearly runs counter to the statement, in paragraph 5 of the protocol, that nothing in these protocols should prevent the Kuwaiti navy, the Kuwaiti coastguard or the Iraqi navy from making any future arrangements or proposing alternative protocols, arrangements or agreements, as determined by both parties.

The measure also contradicts paragraph (d) of Chapter IV of the Joint Plan, which stipulates that the Joint Plan may be amended by written request and with the consent of both parties through the diplomatic channel.

Accordingly, the State of Kuwait stresses that the protocol and the map attached to it continue to be in force, as do the Joint Plan and the related map. The two countries need them for the purposes of both security and navigation. The distribution of responsibilities provided for in the protocol has been established for 15 years and will continue until such time as the need for alternatives arises, as determined by both parties.

In conclusion, my Government calls upon the Government of the Republic of Iraq to respect the principles of good-neighbourliness and not to shirk its obligations under bilateral and international agreements and the rules of international law.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tareq M. A. M. Albanai  
Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations

