



Security Council

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Letter dated 8 May 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to you on behalf of the Government of Iraq in the midst of the ongoing discussions and assessments of the current operations of the United Nations in Iraq, especially the future plan for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq presence in Iraq. In this vein, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, addressed to you, reflecting my country's Government's vision on the outlook of the relationship between Iraq and the United Nations, building on the numerous shared successes and achievements (see annex).

Furthermore, I wish to convey the Government of Iraq's gratitude for the long-standing support of the United Nations and the international community to the people of Iraq, and I can assure you that Iraq, as a founding member of this Organization, will always be committed to its Charter and noble purposes.

I have the further honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abbas Kadhom **Obaid**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Letter from the Prime Minister of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to draw your attention to the letter of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq dated May 2023 (S/2023/359), in which Government of the Republic of Iraq requested that the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) be extended for a period of one year, ending in May 2024, and also requested that consideration be given to reducing the mandate of the mission. However, the Security Council, in its resolution 2682 (2023) regarding the formation of an independent strategic review team charged with assessing the continued relevance of the Mission's tasks and priorities, did not call for consultations with just the Government of Iraq, as had been expected, but also with actors that did not have a role to play when UNAMI was established in 2003. Those facts notwithstanding, when the strategic review team was formed five months after the adoption of the resolution, the Government of the Republic of Iraq provided all the assistance that the team needed to accomplish its mission, in keeping with the Government's desire to honour Security Council resolutions and in view of the profoundness of the relationship that exists between the United Nations and Iraq, which prides itself on being one of the Organization's founding States. We explained to the team that the Government of Iraq believes that there is no longer any need for UNAMI to continue operating, while stressing the importance of cooperation with the 22 specialized international agencies operating in Iraq through the resident coordinator mechanism.

We reviewed the report of the strategic review team, which includes the team's vision. The team developed its vision following meetings that it held with various figures, individuals and civil society organizations, as well as the ambassadors of certain countries in Baghdad and New York, and UNAMI staff. The team, like us, concluded that there is no need for the Mission to continue in Iraq. Moreover, and unfortunately, no distinction is made in the report between, on the one hand, the perspectives of the Government, which represents the Iraqi people, and the host country, which established the Mission in order to assist it, and, on the other hand, the perspectives of unofficial actors, who offered their personal views. UNAMI is a form of bilateral cooperation between Iraq and the United Nations that must be based on bilateral consultation and on respecting the wishes and sovereignty of Iraq. Such cooperation is linked to the extent to which the Mission achieves its objectives and the need for its continuation.

Taking into account the positive developments and the achievements made by successive Iraqi governments with the assistance of friendly countries, the United Nations and its missions and specialized agencies, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and the completion by UNAMI of its tasks and mandate in the desired manner, in particular at the political level, and after more than 20 years of democratization and overcoming significant and diverse challenges, there are no longer any justifications for the presence of a political mission in Iraq.

The Government of Iraq has been able to make several significant strides in many areas, in particular in areas that are within the mandate of UNAMI. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in her briefing to the Security Council this past February, outlined several of those accomplishments, which were strictly the

result of government efforts and initiatives. In this context, the Government wishes to stress that it is necessary to adopt national initiatives and pursue direct, constructive dialogue, as that is the only way to overcome challenges and achieve sustainable solutions.

Thus, in accordance with the sovereign right of the Republic of Iraq, as the host country, and having regard to the size of the Mission, the number of its staff and its need for sufficient time to liquidate its operations and transfer its files to Iraqi institutions and United Nations agencies, we call for the mandate of UNAMI to be terminated definitively on 31 December 2025, provided that its activities during what remains of the current year are limited to completing its work strictly in relation to economic reform, service delivery, sustainable development, climate change and other aspects of development. My Government stands ready to cooperate fully and provide the required assistance and support to achieve that aim, and it is prepared to dispatch a technical delegation to discuss and agree upon a shutdown mechanism.

In the future, we see the possibility of directing these efforts towards countries and areas that are in need, and we are ready pass on the experiences of Iraq in the fields of peace, community reconciliation, protection of minorities, addressing the effects of terrorism and democratic transition.

In addition, we reaffirm our desire to increase cooperation, through the resident coordinator mechanism, with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as with the United Nations Development Programme, a key partner in achieving development and overcoming the economic, climate and environmental challenges facing Iraq and the region.

We are absolutely certain that the Secretary-General and the President and members of the Security Council are aware of the tangible, positive changes that have occurred over the past two decades. We hope that the Security Council will adopt a resolution setting a date for the termination of the mandate of UNAMI, in accordance with the request of the Government of the Republic of Iraq set out above.

We should like to take this opportunity to reiterate our thanks and appreciation to the international community for supporting Iraq over the past 20 years, in particular for the assistance provided with regard to formation of State institutions following the demise of the dictatorial regime, and then with regard to countering terrorism. In addition, we should like to thank to Your Excellency and all United Nations staff for the efforts that enabled UNAMI to carry out its mandate in full. The Mission was a model of constructive cooperation between States and the United Nations. Our thanks go out also to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Plasschaert, to whom we wish success in her endeavours, and to all the employees who worked for the Mission over the years for the important role that they played in such pivotal and decisive stages in the history of Iraq.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mohammed Shia' **Al Sudani**
Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq