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Eightieth year

9933rd meeting

Tuesday, 10 June 2025, 10 a.m.

New York

Provisional

President: Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett (Guyana)

Members:

Algeria.	Mr. Bendjama
China.	Mr. Geng Shuang
Denmark	Ms. Lassen
France	Mr. Dharmadhikari
Greece	Mr. Sekeris
Pakistan.	Mr. Ahmad
Panama	Mr. Alfaro de Alba
Republic of Korea	Mr. Hwang
Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
Sierra Leone	Ms. Swallow
Slovenia.	Mrs. Blokar Drobič
Somalia	Mr. Osman
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . .	Ms. Quinn
United States of America.	Mr. Kelley

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

Forty-second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2025/320)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2732 (2024) (S/2025/323)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

Forty-second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2025/320)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2732 (2024) (S/2025/323)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Iraq and Kuwait to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2025/320, which contains the forty-second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2107 (2013), and document S/2025/323, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2732 (2024).

I now give the floor to Mr. Al Hassan.

Mr. Al Hassan: I would like to begin by expressing my joy at seeing a dear friend and colleague preside over the work of the Council. I would like to express my profound appreciation to the members of the Security Council for their attention, support and guidance. I am so delighted to see the representatives of Iraq and Kuwait participate in today's session. A word of gratitude must be expressed to the Secretary-General for his continued engagement in the Middle East, including his recent visit to Baghdad for the Arab Summit.

Between my most recent report (see S/PV.9803), provided six months ago, and now so many things have happened in Iraq, which I will not list here. However, with members' permission, I would like to mention the most notable developments, at the forefront of which is Iraq's drive towards more stability, more prosperity and closer regional integration.

My profound appreciation goes to the Government of Iraq for the humanitarian aid it has provided to the people of Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen and Syria, not to mention, its support to the new peace initiative between Türkiye and the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which, if implemented in good faith, will bring peace, security and stability to the region at large.

Iraq is well on its way to another national parliamentary election, set for 11 November. Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission, with the technical support of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), is making notable progress in preparing for the election. Voter registration is set to conclude in the coming days, and nearly three quarters of total voters have completed biometric registration so far.

Yes, there are challenges, including logistical concerns, but the Independent High Electoral Commission is committed to doing its best to ensure a free, fair and transparent election with the participation of all Iraqis without fear or intimidation. UNAMI will spare no effort in providing the most professional technical support

towards that end, including efforts to promote the widest participation of women, youth and minorities.

Meanwhile, six months after the successful parliamentary elections in the Kurdistan region of Iraq last October, the formation of a regional government is still pending. Needless to say, a spirit of compromise, focusing on shared objectives rather than partisan divisions, is the key to overcoming that protracted impasse. There is no doubt in my mind that the concerned parties in the Kurdistan region of Iraq will be able to form a competent government that will serve the interests of the people of the Kurdistan region of Iraq and Iraq at large.

In that regard, I would further like to emphasize that the Baghdad-Erbil relationship is a partnership that necessitates ongoing dialogue and collaboration, grounded in the Constitution of Iraq, to effectively address and resolve any outstanding issues between the two sides.

More than 800 Iraqis returned 10 days ago from Al-Hol camp in north-east Syria to Al-Amal Centre in Iraq, showcasing the Government of Iraq's commitment to accelerating the return process of its citizens with the support of the United Nations. It is nevertheless essential that adequate resources be invested in supporting a dignified reintegration of returning families and in ensuring a fair judicial process for the detainees who are being repatriated. And, while Iraq continues to make important strides in addressing returns from north-east Syria, the situation of Iraq's internally displaced persons continues to demand urgent attention.

Hundreds of thousands of individuals remain displaced in Iraq — primarily 100,000 Yazidis from Sinjar. They live in internally displaced persons camps and informal settlements throughout Iraq under precarious conditions. The Government's recent recognition of Yazidis' land rights, with over 1,300 ownership letters and nearly 100 title deeds distributed this year, was a significant milestone. The Iraqi Government has also been proactive in offering compensation to Yazidi survivors and other minorities. However, creating sustainable conditions for returns requires more coherent political, administrative and security measures, in addition to significant investment in job creation and local services. The Government of Iraq needs to accelerate the adoption of a comprehensive national plan for a durable solution. The return process cannot just be physical relocation; it needs to be a meaningful process that rebuilds lives, livelihoods and hope for the future.

(spoke in Arabic)

Let me say it clearly: the Yazidis in Iraq have been greatly harmed in an indescribable manner by Da'esh, and we at the United Nations — through the Council and with its support — call upon those concerned in Iraq and in neighbouring States to take all the necessary measures to protect this sect and to return dignity, respect, appreciation and humanitarian status to them, especially since, to this very day, a number of Yazidis are in a state of semi-forced detention after Da'esh swept away their lives when it swept through Iraq and the entire region. We think it is important to put an end to this injustice imposed on the Yazidi Iraqi people and to guarantee their return to their homes and regions in dignity and in pride.

(spoke in English)

Commitment to human rights is at the heart of Iraq's stability and development. In January, Iraq was reviewed by the Human Rights Council under the universal periodic review, a process designed to support and expand the promotion and protection of human rights in every country. A total of 263 recommendations are currently being considered by Iraq for adoption at the next session of the Human Rights Council. Progress is also being made on a draft law on minority rights and towards the adoption of a national strategy to counter hate speech. The United Nations

is ready to continue supporting these and other human rights initiatives and to engage with the Government of Iraq — our partner and partner to the United Nations — in exploring options for continuing such support after UNAMI's departure.

(spoke in Arabic)

Among the human rights files, cases that must be dealt with urgently and without delay are those involving disappeared persons and people being held in jail illegally without a just and transparent trial. However, we have great trust in the Iraqi judiciary, and we hope that all of these matters will be resolved in accordance with Iraqi laws and regulations and in a manner that returns hope to the thousands of families that have long waited to know the fate of their loved ones. We believe that an Iraq of the future must be in harmony internally and with its neighbours. Iraq is able to do that on the basis of equality and justice for all. By that, I mean equality and justice for all Iraqis, regardless of ethnicity. This is the Iraq of the future to which we aspire, and we fully trust that Iraq and the Iraqi people will be able to achieve this vision of the future.

(spoke in English)

Turning to the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, I welcome the increased use of advanced technologies, in field missions, to identify national burial sites. However, there is a need to redouble such efforts, strengthen cooperation and coordination, including in the search for witnesses, with a view to finding the remains of 300 missing Kuwaiti persons and providing long-overdue answers to their families. I also reiterate the importance of expediting the search to locate and return missing property, including the national archives of Kuwait, especially after the recent welcome decision to reactivate the Iraq-Kuwait joint committee on missing Kuwaiti property.

On other outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait, the resumption of meetings of the Iraq-Kuwait joint technical and legal committees concerned with the demarcation of the maritime borders beyond mark 162 is a welcome development. Continued efforts to rebuild trust and confidence between the two brotherly neighbours are essential for forging a more stable and cooperative future.

(spoke in Arabic)

In addition, we greatly value the positions of the Iraqi President and the Iraqi Prime Minister with regard to the decision taken by the Federal Supreme Court on the so-called Khor Abdullah agreement. We confirm the need to take decisions to preserve security and stability and guarantee respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to ensure good neighbourliness and non-interference in internal affairs. In that connection, we renew UNAMI's offer to extend its good offices upon the request of both sides.

Moreover, I note that the State of Kuwait was the victim of an invasion. For us to be able to have closure, we must work together and seriously to rebuild trust. That requires practical measures and promises fulfilled on the ground, away from any politicization, with a focus on what brings the two countries and the two sisterly peoples together and on what would bolster partnership and positive relations. We must focus on what brings us together — not what sets us apart.

(spoke in English)

With just over six months remaining before UNAMI's mandate ends, I would like to assure members of the Council that the Mission continues to pursue a structured transition according to schedule and in close cooperation with the Government of Iraq, whom I would like to warmly thank for its help, assistance and coordination. I would also like to report to the Council that we have closed UNAMI's offices in

Mosul and Kirkuk, and we are gradually reducing our staffing levels, seeking to balance the Mission drawdown with our continuing mandated tasks, and that, as you are aware, in a context of serious financial constraints impacting the United Nations as a whole.

I wish to reiterate my confidence in the resilience of the Iraqi people and the determination of their leaders. Iraq is a nation of profound history, strength, potential and pride. By working together, Iraqis can continue to make meaningful strides towards further stability, prosperity and human rights for all.

(spoke in Arabic)

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my full confidence in Iraq and Iraqis and the ability of that ancient country, which is among the founding Members of the United Nations, to regain its status among the nations. We at the United Nations, and I personally, are committed to supporting and assisting Iraq and the Iraqi people to the best of our ability. We will spare no effort in that endeavour because we believe in the country, its capabilities and its potential and the potential of its people.

The President: I thank Mr. Al Hassan for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

Mr. Kelley (United States of America): I thank Special Representative Al Hassan for his informative briefing and for his stewardship of the drawdown of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), pursuant to resolution 2732 (2024).

The United States has consistently called for a smooth and orderly drawdown and is monitoring the process UNAMI has initiated to transfer tasks to the United Nations country team in appropriate areas.

The United States and other Council members have also affirmed that UNAMI still has important work to do before it concludes its mission. In that regard, we remain committed to UNAMI's continued advice, support and technical assistance to Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission in support of Iraqi parliamentary elections scheduled for 11 November.

We also believe UNAMI can play an important role in the repatriation and reintegration of Iraqi families from the Al-Hol and Al-Roj camps. We commend Iraq's accelerated repatriations from north-east Syria since the beginning of the year and encourage all parties to continue apace.

UNAMI's good offices role has also facilitated engagement between Iraq and Kuwait on outstanding issues, including the return of persons and property, consistent with resolution 2107 (2013). Given the importance of Iraq-Kuwait relations for regional stability, we encourage Iraq and Kuwait to agree on the modalities for an appropriate United Nations follow-on mechanism to resolve that humanitarian file before the conclusion of UNAMI's mandate.

As we have previously made clear, the end of UNAMI's mandate should not spell the end of those countries' work on missing persons and property. In particular, more work is needed to identify and locate the remains of missing Kuwaitis, as well as the return of property, including the national archives.

We recognize that third-party assistance is sometimes required to spur progress. For that reason, we encourage continued efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Iraq to conduct joint analyses of four burial sites in Kuwait based on coordinates provided by the United States and the United Kingdom.

As the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait pursue resolution of all outstanding issues, we must also remain vigilant about the malign influence of Iran and other external actors who seek to exploit divisions for their own self-interest.

President Trump's recent trip to the region, which included his participation in the United States-Gulf Cooperation Council Summit, showed the depth of United States commitment to shared prosperity.

The United States also remains committed to working with the Government of Iraq to strengthen and deepen its long-term, whole-of-government partnership in pursuit of a secure, stable and sovereign Iraq.

Mrs. Blokar Drobič (Slovenia): I thank Special Representative Al Hassan for his briefing. I also welcome the representative of Iraq and the representative of Kuwait to the meeting.

We join the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in acknowledging the efforts of the Government of Iraq in its pursuit for peace, development and stability in Iraq, as well as its diplomatic engagement in the region.

Today I would like to make the following points.

First, Iraq needs to remain a place for dialogue, cooperation and resilience. We encourage the Government of Iraq to maintain its commitment to reforms that include protecting human rights and building resilient, democratic and accountable institutions. Slovenia welcomes the decision to hold the parliamentary elections in November and thanks the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) for its technical assistance. Those elections, too, will provide an important opportunity to foster greater inclusion and the meaningful participation of women, minorities and underrepresented groups. We welcome the efforts of the Iraqi Government to find durable solutions for internally displaced persons. In particular, we encourage the Government of Iraq to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, consistent with Iraq's international human rights obligations. That applies also to any changes to the regulation of personal status matters. Perpetrators of human rights violations must be held accountable for their actions. With the mandate of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant concluded, the fight for accountability against Da'esh must continue. The survivors and victims of Da'esh's crimes deserve justice.

Secondly, at the regional level, we welcome the Iraqi Government's constructive engagement with regional and international partners in promoting dialogue and pursuing peaceful resolutions to the regional conflicts, as well as its efforts to enhance regional stability. We encourage Iraq to continue to play that role. Dialogue, as well as respect for international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions, remains vital for fostering regional stability.

Furthermore, it remains important that the use of force across Iraq's territory is exercised solely under the authority of the Iraqi State. And Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected, in accordance with international law and established principles of good neighbourly relations.

Slovenia also reiterates the importance of continued cooperation between Iraq and Kuwait. Uncovering the fate of missing persons is vital, and it needs to be resolved. Progress must be made towards a final resolution of outstanding issues in the search for missing Kuwaiti and Iraqi citizens, third-country nationals and stateless persons and missing Kuwaiti property. We thank the Secretary-General for his report and recommendations on the issue (S/2025/320), and we look forward to continuing the discussion on the best way forward towards a resolution. We wish to reiterate that bringing peace and closure to the families of the missing persons is the humane thing to do.

In conclusion, we welcome the Government's close cooperation with UNAMI and its willingness to facilitate the transition of UNAMI, in line with resolution 2732 (2024). It is important that the transition continue smoothly, while consolidating and

preserving the achievements of UNAMI since 2003. In this light, we wish to reiterate our full support to Iraq on its path towards a stable and prosperous future.

Mr. Hwang (Republic of Korea): I would like to extend my gratitude to Special Representative of the Secretary-General Al Hassan for his comprehensive briefing. I also welcome the participation of the representatives of Iraq and Kuwait in today's meeting.

It has now been a year since the Security Council took the momentous decision to conclude the mandate of the long-standing United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) by the end of 2025 (see S/PV.9642). Over the past year, the Government of Iraq has made notable progress in key areas such as counter-terrorism and economic development. While those developments are encouraging, critical challenges remain. In that context, we underscore the need to further strengthen cooperation between the Iraqi Government and UNAMI so as to ensure a smooth transition.

Today I would like to make the following points in that connection.

First, we welcome Iraq's steady progress in political and security sectors. We support Iraq's ongoing efforts to prepare for free, fair and transparent elections in November. In that regard, enhanced cooperation with UNAMI in public outreach and civic education will be vital. We also note certain positive developments, such as a decline in Da'esh attacks and the decision of the Kurdistan Workers' Party to disarm. Nevertheless, continued vigilance is required given the potential resurgence of such forces amid ongoing regional instability.

Furthermore, to consolidate truly inclusive and stable political progress, it is imperative to address unresolved tensions, especially those involving the Kurdistan region. We therefore stress the importance of sustained dialogue between Baghdad and Erbil on complex security and economic matters. It is also crucial to expedite the formation of a new Kurdistan Regional Government, building upon last year's successful parliamentary elections.

Secondly, the forthcoming conclusion of UNAMI's mandate must not weaken Iraq's commitment to human rights and humanitarian principles. With a view to ensuring continuity in human rights engagement during and beyond the transition period, we encourage the Iraqi Government to maintain close coordination with relevant United Nations bodies. Moreover, all legal and institutional reforms should align with Iraq's international obligations. Particular attention must be paid to safeguarding the rights of women and children in the implementation of the Personal Status Law. The safe return and protection of displaced persons remain critical. The implementation of the Yazidi Survivors Law should be complemented by efforts for safe return and rehabilitation in the Sinjar region, along with accountability for the crimes committed. We also express our strong support for the One United Nations approach to facilitate the reintegration of Iraqi nationals returning from Al-Hol and Al-Roj camps in north-eastern Syria.

Thirdly, we encourage Iraq and Kuwait to continue making tangible progress in resolving the outstanding issues regarding the repatriation of missing Kuwaiti nationals or their remains and the return of all Kuwaiti property, including the national archives. We commend the ongoing efforts of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee to identify and repatriate the remains of missing persons. In that connection, we value the essential contributions of the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNAMI, including technical assistance such as DNA analysis of bone fragments. The recent resumption of the Iraq-Kuwait joint committee on missing Kuwaiti property, after more than a decade, is also a positive step forward. Regarding a post-UNAMI follow-on mechanism, the Republic of Korea stands ready to constructively engage with Council members based on the Secretary-General's recommendations.

From 2004 to 2008, the Republic of Korea maintained a contingent of approximately 3,000 troops in Iraq as part of our contribution to peacekeeping and reconstruction. To date, we have provided more than \$600 million in assistance and plan to provide an additional \$9 million this year for development cooperation projects in Iraq for healthcare, education and capacity-building for socioeconomic integration. As a trusted partner, the Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to Iraq's stability, prosperity and security and will continue working closely with UNAMI to stand behind a successful transition.

Mr. Sekeris (Greece): I would also like to thank Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), for his detailed briefing.

As this is the first time Greece takes the floor on the situation in Iraq, I would like to welcome the representatives of Iraq and Kuwait to this briefing.

In view of the forthcoming end of UNAMI's mandate, we welcome the efforts of the Government of Iraq in its pursuit of peace, stability and development, as well as its commendable diplomatic outreach in the region.

To be more specific, I would like to highlight the following four points.

First, Iraq will thrive as political and economic stability is further reinforced, and positive steps have been taken in the right direction. In that context, Greece welcomes the decision of the Government of Iraq to hold parliamentary elections on 11 November. The assistance of the United Nations, through the Independent High Electoral Commission, is critical in that regard, and we would like to express our full support for the mission's invaluable contribution. Equally important, as outlined by Special Representative Al Hassan, is the inclusion and meaningful participation of women, minorities and underrepresented groups in all stages of the electoral and political process.

We also welcome the holding of elections in the Iraqi region of Kurdistan, last October, as a positive development. Now, it is crucial for the political leadership to work together for the swift formation of an effective regional Government. Equally, it is imperative to advance Erbil's cooperation with Baghdad towards solving pending issues and overcoming domestic challenges. We echo the calls for permanent and sustainable solutions to be found in that regard.

Secondly, on the security front, we encourage Iraq to continue efforts to assert State authority over armed actors and support the disarmament and reintegration processes. In that respect, we commend Iraq's concerted efforts to accelerate the return of all its nationals from north-eastern Syria, including from Al-Hol, as well as to expedite the reintegration of internally displaced persons into Iraqi society on the basis of voluntary, safe and sustainable returns. The issue of unexploded ordnance must also be addressed, as civilian casualties continue to occur.

Thirdly, guaranteeing human rights and promoting social inclusion is an invaluable investment for a better future. Any amendments to the Personal Status Law must be in line with the country's international human rights obligations, particularly as it relates to safeguarding the rights and well-being of women and children. Furthermore, the right to freedom of expression plays a crucial role in maintaining the sustainability of democratic governance. Finding a solution to the issue of enforced disappearances, in coordination with the United Nations, also remains vital.

Fourthly and lastly, but certainly not least, we highlight the need for continued progress in the search for missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals, as well as in the recovery and return of Kuwaiti missing property, including the national archives. The Tripartite Commission, under the leadership of the International Committee of

the Red Cross, has consistently contributed to the search, identification and return of the remains of missing persons. In parallel, we warmly welcome the recent training of Iraqi and Kuwaiti experts by the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus as a great paradigm of what can be achieved through joint efforts and exchange of valuable know-how and expertise.

Absent an agreement between the two sides on the way forward, we take note of the recent recommendations of the Secretary-General (see S/2025/320) on an appropriate follow-on mechanism and look forward to engaging with all parties on the optimal way to proceed. We are all encouraged by the efforts of Iraq and Kuwait to strengthen bilateral relations, including through the assignment of envoys to facilitate the resolution of outstanding issues.

In conclusion, as UNAMI's drawdown progresses, it is important to find a way forward in order to maintain and advance the United Nations-Iraq partnership. Greece fully supports Iraq's sovereignty, stability and territorial integrity and wholeheartedly wishes to see the country succeed — to the benefit, first and foremost, of its people, but also of the wider region. We will continue to engage with and fully support the work of the United Nations in that regard.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan, for his briefing on the situation in the Republic of Iraq. His statement clearly shows that the situation in the country has definitively normalized. That is further proof that the decision to draw down the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) by 31 December was timely and justified. We fully support the exceptional work of the Special Representative during this crucial period of drawing down the United Nations political presence in the country.

We commend the success of the Government of Mohammed Al Sudani in improving the socioeconomic situation in the country, boosting the effectiveness of the work of the Iraqi governing bodies and enhancing domestic stability and security. The facts speak for themselves: owing to the effective work of law enforcement, the number of attacks attributed to Da'esh declined for a fourth consecutive quarter.

Since his appointment as Prime Minister, Al Sudani has undertaken robust measures to modernize the energy sector by leveraging foreign investment. As a result, among other things, gas flaring has been reduced by 70 per cent. A symbolic factor in the revival of the new Iraq was the conduct of the first nationwide population census since 1987.

We deem it important to advance constructive dialogue between the federal Government in Baghdad and the Kurdish Autonomous Region on unresolved contentious issues. We welcome the decision to resume exports of oil products from the Kurdish Autonomous Region, which will most favourably affect the socioeconomic situation in the region and the entire country.

The successful conduct of the parliamentary election, scheduled to be held on 11 November, will be of particular importance for maintaining domestic political peace. We trust that the election will be just as successful as the 20 October election held in the Kurdish Autonomous Region, which will further attest to the maturity of Iraqi statehood. We call on all Iraqi political forces to strive to resolve all emerging difficulties and tensions exclusively through dialogue and for the benefit of all ethnic and religious communities and population groups.

We welcome Baghdad's enhanced role in pan-Arab affairs. The successful hosting in the Iraqi capital of the thirty-fourth Summit of the League of Arab States and Iraq's assumption of the presidency of that body reflects the country's prominent role in the region. We are convinced that greater coordination between Iraq and

its regional partners will contribute to further advancing peace and security in the Middle East.

We welcome Baghdad's focus on the reinforcement of mutually beneficial relations with neighbouring States in a spirit of friendship and cooperation. We are of the view that further consideration of the Iraq-Kuwait file, including possible United Nations oversight thereof, needs to be agreed upon with Baghdad and Kuwait. We hope that they will be able to reach mutually acceptable solutions in the spirit of good neighbourliness.

We extend support for Iraq's sovereignty, and we object to any intervention in the country's domestic affairs. The Republic of Iraq should not transform into an arena for political score-settling by external actors. We welcome the Iraqi leadership's efforts to prevent the country from being dragged into the crisis situations that are unfolding along its perimeter against the backdrop of the protracted escalation in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The key to overall stability in the Middle East lies in a just solution to the Palestinian question on the universally recognized international legal basis of the two-State solution. We once again call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, the release of all forcibly detained persons, and safe and unimpeded humanitarian access.

In six months, UNAMI, which has been operating since 2003, will draw to a close. On 31 May 2024, we supported the adoption of resolution 2732 (2024) on the Mission's drawdown. Thus, an entire era is coming to an end in which Iraq has transformed from a State devastated by invasion and post-war chaos into a modern democratic State capable of building its own future without any external assistance.

We expect that the issues falling within the purview of UNAMI will be definitively handed over to the Iraqi Government. We welcome the transfer of United Nations infrastructure in Mosul and Kirkuk to the national authorities. We assume that all issues related to the drawdown of the United Nations presence in the country will be resolved based on close cooperation with Baghdad.

For our part, we are committed to further developing and strengthening our traditionally friendly relations with Iraq, and we stand ready to provide Baghdad with every possible support at this historic juncture.

Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan): We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan, for his comprehensive briefing. We thank you, Madam President, for your sagacious leadership. And we also acknowledge the important work of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in supporting Iraq during this critical transition period. We also welcome the participation of the representatives of Kuwait and Iraq in today's meeting.

Pakistan enjoys deep-rooted fraternal ties with Iraq, grounded in religious and cultural affinity, mutual respect and understanding. We welcome the Government of Iraq's commitment to engaging constructively with the United Nations during this crucial phase, and appreciate the steps already taken to facilitate coordination with UNAMI and other United Nations entities.

Pakistan commends Iraq's efforts to consolidate democratic institutions, stabilize the security environment and advance national development, despite complex internal and regional challenges. Sustained reforms and public service delivery initiatives, the implementation of the federal budget, successful provincial council elections and the focus on regional development reflect positive momentum.

We encourage all political stakeholders in Iraq to maintain dialogue and inclusivity, especially in the context of the preparations for national elections in November, and work to address the institutional gaps. The amendment in article 12 of the federal budget law shows the commitment of the Government to ensuring the

rights of all regions. The peaceful conduct of elections in the Kurdistan region last year was a welcome step towards strengthening democratic governance. We take note of the observations of the Special Representative regarding the formation of the regional government, which is still pending and which he hoped would be addressed through dialogue grounded in the Constitution of Iraq.

On the humanitarian side, sustained attention is required, including with regard to the needs of internally displaced persons. Pakistan acknowledges Iraq's achievements in facilitating voluntary return, reintegration and improved access to documentation. We further underscore the need for durable solutions grounded in respect for human rights and dignity.

Pakistan remains concerned about the volatile regional security environment, which poses a risk to Iraq's stability. We reiterate our firm support for Iraq's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. It is imperative that Iraq not be drawn into regional confrontations.

We reiterate our strong support for the efforts to resolve outstanding issues between the two brotherly countries of Iraq and Kuwait, including the return of property, archives and the repatriation of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains. While progress has been made, significant work remains. As Special Representative of the Secretary-General Al Hassan has noted, there is a need to redouble the efforts and strengthen coordination and cooperation to bring about closure based on trust.

We take note of the Secretary-General's commitment to advancing a final resolution to that important humanitarian file, as well as his recommendations regarding follow-up mechanisms after UNAMI's departure. Pakistan will continue to remain engaged on this matter in the Council and with the two brotherly countries to find an amicable and mutually acceptable way forward for the settlement of all outstanding issues, especially the issue of the missing persons.

As UNAMI approaches the conclusion of its mandate, a seamless and well-supported transition is essential. We welcome the progress made on the transition and liquidation planning processes, as noted today by the Special Representative. It is vital that this process, while preserving institutional knowledge, remains inclusive, coordinated and responsive to Iraq's national priorities.

Pakistan reaffirms its continued solidarity with the Government and the brotherly people of Iraq in their pursuit of peace and prosperity. The international community must remain a steadfast partner in that journey.

Ms. Quinn (United Kingdom): I thank Special Representative Al Hassan for his informative briefing.

I will make three points.

First, we welcome the smooth transition period towards the end of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). It is encouraging to see that Iraq has remained stable despite an escalation of conflict in the region during the past six months. We commend the publication of Iraq's national action plan on women and peace and security and the announcement of a date for federal elections. UNAMI's support to the Independent High Electoral Commission on the upcoming elections has been very valuable, and it was very good to hear today from the Special Representative about the progress being made towards key milestones. We look forward to UNAMI assisting the Government of Iraq during the remainder of its mandate in ensuring that the elections are free and fair.

Secondly, we continue to follow closely efforts in the Kurdistan region of Iraq to form its regional Government. That is vital for the stability of the region and

should ideally precede the federal elections. We hope that the political leaders and parties of the region can overcome their differences and form a Government soon. In this important electoral year for Iraq, we urge the Government of Iraq to ensure the protection of freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and to strengthen legal protection guarantees for journalists, the media and civil society.

Finally, we thank the Secretary-General for his recent report on Kuwaiti and Iraqi missing persons (S/2025/320). As penholder on this issue and a member of the Tripartite Commission, chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross, we look forward to working with Iraq, Kuwait and all other interested parties to identify a route forward. In that regard, we are committed to undertaking close engagement with Council members, stakeholders and the Secretariat regarding an appropriate post-UNAMI follow-on mechanism in the coming weeks.

Mr. Osman (Somalia): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the three African members of the Security Council, namely, Algeria, Sierra Leone and my own country, Somalia, as well as Guyana (A3+).

We welcome the participation of the Chargé d'affaires of Iraq and the Permanent Representative of Kuwait in today's meeting.

We also thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mohamed Al Hassan, head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), for his comprehensive briefing, and commend his leadership. We take note of the continued efforts of the United Nations staff in Iraq in support of the Mission's mandate during this critical transition period.

We commend the Iraqi Government for its continued efforts to address the country's challenges. Notable achievements include the official recognition of Halabja as Iraq's nineteenth governorate, important amendments to national legislation and the scheduling of elections for the Council of Representatives for 11 November 2025.

We also acknowledge the Independent High Electoral Commission for its important role in opening voter and candidate registration, a significant step in supporting a transparent electoral process. High voter turnout signals rising public confidence in Iraq's institutions, and we encourage efforts by political actors to advance participatory approaches that include all components of society in the political process.

We call on Iraq to ensure that any changes resulting from amendments to its Personal Status Law are carried out in line with its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We take positive note that the Iraqi Government, in partnership with the United Nations, has enabled the return of 5.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and that a national committee to develop a comprehensive plan for the reintegration of displaced persons is in place. We encourage further efforts to urgently address the situation of the remaining 1 million IDPs. We commend Iraq's leadership in repatriating citizens from Al-Hol camp in Syria and the launch of the "One United Nations" plan (2025–2027), which aims to return all Iraqi nationals from north-eastern Syria by the end of 2025.

The increased pace of returns arriving in Iraq, so far in 2025, is notable. We note with concern, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report (S/2025/323), that the effects of climate change are exacerbating existing challenges in areas such as water scarcity and agricultural productivity. We commend the launch of the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Group and encourage the Government of Iraq to continue to take actions to combat climate change. Efforts to attract foreign investment, modernize the energy sector and boost petroleum production,

highlighted by the 2025 Iraq Energy Conference and the forty-eighth Baghdad International Fair, are encouraging.

The A3+ further notes the ongoing efforts between Iraq and Kuwait, with support from UNAMI and the international community, to resolve outstanding issues such as the return of Kuwaiti property, the national archives and the remains of Kuwaiti and third-party nationals. We welcome the resumption of the of the joint committee meetings and encourage both parties to continue their constructive engagement in negotiations to reach a final agreement to delimit maritime boundaries.

Despite the valuable efforts and continued cooperation among all concerned parties, including the Tripartite Commission, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, some important files remain to be fully resolved. Those include the files of the 315 missing individuals, including Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, with 308 names listed by Kuwait. In that regard, we remain hopeful that this outstanding issue will be resolved.

In that context, we believe that continued United Nations assistance could help to ensure further progress towards settling this long-standing humanitarian issue. We welcome the presentation of recommendations for an appropriate follow-on mechanism and are committed to engaging constructively with Council members on the way forward.

As UNAMI moves towards closure, a well-managed transition is essential. We welcome Iraq's commitment to logistical, technical and security support and note the establishment of an integrated working group at United Nations Headquarters to coordinate the transition and handover to United Nations entities and partners.

We recognize Iraq's proactive approach in forming a committee to coordinate with UNAMI on transition matters and note the gradual drawdown of UNAMI staff and closure of field offices. The agreement for the United Nations country team to use facilities in Baghdad and Erbil after UNAMI's exit is a positive development. Ahead of the finalization of UNAMI's transition plan by 31 December 2025, we stress the importance of continued collaboration among all stakeholders.

The A3+ urges Iraq and Kuwait to continue to make progress through commitment to the principles of peaceful resolution and good neighbourliness. The A3+ remains committed to supporting Iraq's pursuit of peace, stability and prosperity and — on a separate but related matter — helping both Iraq and Kuwait to finalize all outstanding issues.

Mr. Alfaro de Alba (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): Panama extends its appreciation to the presidency of the Security Council for convening this meeting and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan. We also warmly welcome the representatives of the Republic of Iraq and the State of Kuwait, who are participating in today's meeting.

We welcome with optimism the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (S/2025/323), which reflects significant progress in the Republic of Iraq in the humanitarian and sociopolitical fields. As detailed in the report, those developments are a testament to the valuable work being carried out by the Mission in support of the Government of Iraq and to the close cooperation and mutual commitment between the two sides. In particular, the results of the General Population and Housing Census stand out, as does the return of 5.1 million internally displaced people up to 10 April thanks to the sustained efforts of the Iraqi Government and the coordinated support of the United Nations in the country.

In that context, we wish to express our deepest appreciation for the valuable work of Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan, Special Representative and Head of UNAMI, and

we reiterate Panama's full support for his efforts and the mandate entrusted to him. Panama appreciates the commitment of the Special Representative and UNAMI to promoting women's political participation, ensuring legislative reforms that respect their rights and strengthening inclusive electoral processes, as well as improving access to essential and educational services for women and girls, which are essential for post-conflict stability. We also welcome the decision of the Council of Ministers to set 11 November as the date for the elections of the Council of Representatives, which represents a significant step towards strengthening democratic institutions in Iraq. We call for the elections to be held with full guarantees for the meaningful, safe and equal participation of women as candidates, voters and key actors in building democracy. In that regard, we call on all local and regional political stakeholders to work together to form an inclusive Government that represents citizens for the benefit of the Iraqi people and their well-being.

We recognize the sustained efforts being made by Iraq and Kuwait, with the support of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the accompaniment of the international community, to constructively address the outstanding issues between the two countries. In particular, we appreciate the continued cooperation as part of the Tripartite Commission and the United Nations follow-up mechanism and the commitment shown by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait.

However, despite the significant efforts and goodwill of all the parties involved, significant challenges remain. We note with particular attention the Secretary-General's recommendations regarding the establishment of a follow-up mechanism to ensure progress on outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait, including the return of Kuwaiti property and the national archives and the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains. The Republic of Panama is familiar with the suffering generated by forced disappearances resulting from conflicts and the open wound that that unfinished situation leaves for families, who are unable to close this painful chapter of their lives. We therefore call for efforts to be redoubled through close cooperation between the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait to bring the matter to a conclusion and facilitate the restoration of Kuwait's national memory and identity.

We reiterate our commitment to fully supporting the transition process, with the aim of achieving an orderly and successful completion of the Mission, in the context of the positive economic and social development of Iraq — a resilient country whose people deserve the certainty of a future of stability and prosperity.

Mr. Geng Shuang (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Special Representative Al Hassan for his briefing and welcome the presence of the representatives of Iraq and Kuwait in today's meeting.

During the reporting period, the Government of Iraq has taken active steps to promote reform, create jobs, improve people's livelihoods and combat corruption. It has completed the national population census, set the date for Council of Representatives elections and maintained the steady improvement of the situation in the country. China commends those developments. Iraqi factions strengthening unity, achieving reconciliation and committing to development is in the interests of the Iraqi people. We support the Central Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government in continuing to strengthen dialogue and consultation on outstanding issues for sustainable solutions.

Iraq is still facing the threat of terrorism, which continues to affect its security and stability. The international community should continue to help Iraq to strengthen its counter-terrorism capacity-building, eliminate the remnants of terrorist forces and consolidate the counter-terrorism gains achieved over the years. We welcome Iraq's

continued efforts to promote the repatriation and resettlement of Iraqi nationals from the Al-Hol camp in Syria and encourage Iraq to continue to actively address the issue of internal displacement.

China supports the development of good neighbourly relations between Iraq and the countries of the region. We congratulate Iraq on successfully hosting the thirty-fourth Summit of the League of Arab States and look forward to its continued important role in promoting regional unity and maintaining regional stability. I wish to reiterate that the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq should be fully respected and that all parties should address their concerns through cooperation with the Iraqi Government.

Since its establishment, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) has made important contributions to supporting the reconstruction and development of Iraq. As the Mission approaches the formal termination of its mandate in December, the Secretary-General has formulated a plan for its transition and withdrawal. We hope that UNAMI will earnestly implement the plan with the necessary assistance by the Iraqi Government and that the joint efforts by both sides will ensure the gradual drawdown, smooth transition and eventual withdrawal of the Mission, so as to bring its work over 20 years to a successful conclusion.

Resolving the issue of missing Kuwaiti nationals and property is of vital importance to both Iraq and Kuwait. We commend the recent active efforts by both sides and hope to see further progress on outstanding issues based on the principles of mutual respect and friendly consultations. The Secretary-General has submitted to the Security Council his recommendations for a follow-on mechanism for the relevant issues. We hope that all parties will work together to reach a proper solution on the basis of full respect for the views of Iraq and Kuwait.

Ms. Lassen (Denmark): I would like to thank Special Representative Al Hassan for his important briefing and to welcome the participation of the representatives of Iraq and Kuwait in this meeting.

It is evident that Iraq continues to work diligently towards a more stable and prosperous future for its people and the region. Denmark continues to support Iraq in that endeavour. That is a long-standing commitment. We have assisted by training Iraqi security forces, combating Da'esh and Al-Qaida and contributing to development efforts across the country. We recognize Iraq's achievements in counter-terrorism operations, as well as the repatriation of Iraqi nationals from the camps in the north-east Syria and supporting their reintegration into their communities of origin. Denmark supports those efforts, including through our stabilization funding.

Allow me to make three points.

First, while we recognize Iraq's constructive regional approach, we recall the need for further credible action towards sustainable economic development and human rights. It is crucial that the 11 November elections be conducted with full respect for democratic principles, political pluralism, transparency and the rule of law to ensure their legitimacy and contribute to long-term stability. Regarding the situation in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, we support the dialogue between the Federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government, which is both needed and timely. In the wider region, we welcome Iraq's recent dialogue with the Syrian transitional President. For the sake of national and regional stability, it is essential that Iraq and the new Syrian authorities work towards a constructive and mutually beneficial partnership. Such developments demonstrate Iraq's positive role in the region.

Secondly, we echo the Secretary-General's call for Iraq and Kuwait to resolve outstanding issues in relation to missing persons, Kuwaiti property and the national

archives and the demarcation of the maritime border. The relatives of missing persons on both sides have a right to closure and certainty regarding their loved ones. We praise the resumption of bilateral talks between Iraq and Kuwait on those topics and hope that this forum can be the basis for further confidence-building measures and continued constructive dialogue on all outstanding issues.

Thirdly and finally, we urge Iraq to seize the current positive momentum by taking concrete measures in cooperation with the international community. That means engaging actively with the United Nations country team where support is still needed, such as human rights and the protection of women's rights and supporting the most vulnerable internally displaced people and refugees, with particular emphasis on protection, including access to civil documentation and education. It also means sustained international engagement on issues related to water scarcity. Environmental degradation and the desertification of agricultural lands not only present challenges in the short term but risk undermining progress and stability in the long term.

In conclusion, Iraq has a proud and complex history of resilience and fragility. We continue to support Iraq in its endeavours to work towards a stable and prosperous future. That future must be for all Iraqis and must serve to safeguard their individual rights.

Mr. Dharmadhikari (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan, for his briefing. I also want to welcome the presence here today of the representative of Iraq and the Permanent Representative of Kuwait.

I would like to make three points.

First, France supports the implementation of the reform agenda put forward by the Iraqi Prime Minister, which is aimed at improving the operation of public services, diversifying the economy and facilitating youth employment. We encourage Iraq to pursue those reforms. Regarding relations between Baghdad and Erbil, France calls for the continuation of constructive dialogue, in particular on economic development and security. The interests of Iraq as a whole are at stake. More generally, Iraq's minorities must be taken into account in the reforms being carried out by the Iraqi Prime Minister. France welcomes the holding of parliamentary elections in Iraq in November, which must also be inclusive.

Secondly, France encourages Iraq's stabilizing role in a complex regional context. We applaud Iraq on the organization of the Arab League Summit held in Baghdad on 17 May. During his visit to Iraq in April, the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jean-Noël Barrot, underscored Iraq's role as a regional balancing force and said that a strong and independent Iraq was a source of stability for the entire region, in the context of a deteriorating security environment owing in particular to the conflict that began on 7 October 2023 and the continued destabilizing activities being carried out by Iran. Furthermore, the fight against Da'esh must continue. France remains committed to Iraq's security, stability and sovereignty. Alongside our partners, France will continue to stand by Iraq in its fight against terrorism, with full respect for Iraqi sovereignty. Iraq can count on our willingness to enhance our bilateral cooperation in that area for as long as it requires and circumstances justify.

Thirdly, the Security Council must support the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in the final months of its mandate. As we near the closure of UNAMI, France underscores the critical role played by the Mission and its personnel in assisting Iraq with full respect for Iraqi sovereignty. There is an important need for the Mission to have the financial resources to carry out its mandate until the end of 2025. France takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals (S/2025/320)

and stresses the importance of close cooperation between Iraq and Kuwait on that file and other outstanding issues. France welcomes the fact that Iraq and Kuwait have demonstrated determination to resolve their disputes definitively and constructively, including the sensitive matter of missing persons. We also welcome the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the file and the constructive role played by UNAMI and the United Nations since 2013. France encourages Iraq and Kuwait to continue their efforts towards definitively resolving their disputes.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Al-Fatlawi (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana, on her presidency of the Security Council this month. I would also like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris, Permanent Representative of Greece, for his excellent presidency of the Council throughout the month of May. I would like to extend my thanks Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), for his briefing on the report he submitted to the Secretary-General (S/2025/323). I would also like to thank all members of the Council for their statements, which included praise for Iraq's achievements.

Allow me to briefly discuss the most important developments in Iraq from the past four months.

Regarding political matters, the upcoming sixth parliamentary elections in Iraq are an important step towards strengthening the democratic process in the country, as they represent an opportunity for the Iraqi people to choose their representatives in a peaceful and transparent manner. The Independent High Electoral Commission, which is respected across Iraq's political spectrum, plays a central role in that democratic process, guaranteeing the integrity of the electoral process by organizing elections, updating the voter register, supervising polling stations and ensuring that all parties adhere to legal and constitutional standards. The cooperation between Iraqi political parties, especially as UNAMI embarks on its drawdown, is a sign of their growing political maturity and ability to manage national affairs efficiently. Such cooperation among the various political powers is a testament to their commitment to dialogue and understanding.

Tensions between the political forces in Iraq is a natural part of the democratic process and a good indication of the vitality of the political scene and the plurality of opinions. Such tensions exist in many democratic countries and reflect the political powers' quest to express their visions and the interests of their constituencies in a constitutional and peaceful manner. That enhances the maturity of our democratic experience in the country. The relationship between the Federal Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government is based on dialogue and common understanding, and both parties show a clear eagerness to resolve differences through constructive negotiations based on adherence to the Constitution, which helps to strengthen national stability, in the interests of all citizens within the framework of the Constitution and the unity of the country.

I would like to point out here that the Iraqi Government has placed the issue of the return of displaced persons and the closure of displacement centres at the top of its list of priorities as part of national programmes. It has developed national plans and budgets to achieve that goal without discrimination, including the Yazidi component, and work is continuing to implement the Yazidi female survivors' law, give compensation and provide a range of benefits for victims.

Regarding regional matters, regional events over the past two years have provided clear evidence of, and testimony to, the wisdom of the political leadership in Iraq and its ability to impose its authority, control the internal situation and refrain

from entering the regional escalation race, in the light of all the unfortunate events that the region has witnessed, particularly the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Iraq is working tirelessly in the political sphere to play an active role in its regional environment by adopting a policy of calm and dialogue. It seeks to bring the views of the various countries closer, acting as an honest and impartial mediator to ease tensions and promote stability.

Baghdad has hosted several successful rounds of dialogue between regional parties, as Iraq believes that lasting solutions come through dialogue and understanding, not escalation, and that those efforts reflect Iraq's return to its pivotal role in the region as a bridge of communication and trust-building. Iraq supports the decisions taken by some countries of the world to lift economic sanctions on the brotherly country of Syria, which it sees as a step in the right direction to return Syria to normal in the process of regional economic integration. Iraq adopts a friendly attitude to Syria and the Syrian people based on the historical, geographical and social ties that unite the two brotherly countries. Iraq has demonstrated clear political and diplomatic flexibility in its dealings with the Syrian interim Government in an effort to bring views closer and support stabilization efforts. That position reflects a wise political vision aimed at overcoming divisions and promoting peaceful solutions and a sincere desire to improve the situation in Syria and end the suffering of its people. Iraq recognizes that Syria's stability is in the interests of regional security. In that spirit, Iraq supports dialogue and joint coordination as a means of achieving peace and development in the region. Iraq also welcomes the support of the United Nations relief effort in facilitating the passage of humanitarian aid through Iraqi border crossings.

On 27 May, Iraq hosted the regional meeting of experts of the International Commission on Missing Persons in the presence of several local and international dignitaries and representatives of the relevant humanitarian organizations. The meeting featured dialogue sessions. It highlighted the main practices, successful experience, achievements and future plans, in addition to reviewing the legal framework and the main challenges related to the file of missing persons in the region.

In May, Iraq hosted the thirty-fourth Arab Summit in Baghdad, which was attended by the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, who, in his statement, commended the progress Iraq has made since 2004 in strengthening its institutions and resolving conflicts through dialogue. The Summit was also attended by representatives of regional and international organizations. As a prominent event, it reflects Iraq's return to its active regional role after years of challenges and confirms Iraq's principled policy of adopting the method of dialogue as an approach to addressing crises and differences. The Summit also saw the participation of leaders and officials from 22 Arab countries. They discussed pivotal issues, such as Arab national security, the Palestinian question and economic and environmental challenges. The Summit led to many positive results, including Iraq's launch of several strategic initiatives, such as the establishment of the joint Arab security coordination chamber and the proposal to establish an Arab centre for artificial intelligence in Baghdad, in addition to initiatives to improve food security and confront climate change. Iraq also pledged \$20 million for the reconstruction of Gaza and a similar amount for Lebanon, reflecting its commitment to supporting Arab causes.

Furthermore, Iraq hosted the fifth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in parallel with the thirty-fourth Arab Summit in a double event that reflects Iraq's renewed role in promoting joint Arab action. Iraq has called for the launch of the era of Arab economic reform, which includes the establishment of free trade zones, infrastructure development and the promotion of industrial and agricultural integration. Hosting that affirms Iraq's economic and political recovery and strengthens its position as a hub for regional cooperation. The fifth

Baghdad International Water Conference, held under the slogan “Water and Technology: Partnership for Development”, was recently concluded in Baghdad, with the participation of a wide range of experts representing international and regional organizations. The Conference discussed water security challenges in Iraq and the region and made recommendations, including the establishment of a regional information centre to exchange climate and hydrological data, use artificial intelligence in water resources management, support smart water projects and enhance the role of women and youth in the sector.

The Arab Organization for Tourism has chosen Baghdad as the Arab tourism capital for 2025, in recognition of Baghdad’s rich civilizational and cultural heritage. The announcement came during a meeting of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism, where participants praised the efforts of the Iraqi Government in developing political infrastructure, enhancing security and stability and highlighting Baghdad’s status as an outstanding tourist destination in the Arab world. Iraq attaches great importance to strengthening its relations with neighbouring countries of the region, aware of the importance of cooperation in achieving stability and common prosperity, and seeks to implement strategic projects, such as electrical interconnection, with the Gulf countries, Jordan and Türkiye, which helps to diversify energy sources and achieve their security. Iraq is also working to implement the Development Road project linking the Al-Faw seaport with Türkiye and Europe so that it can become a vital economic corridor.

Iraq believes in the importance of promoting regional integration and integration in the industrial, transport and energy sectors. Iraq expresses its serious desire to host a regional headquarters for the United Nations dealing with important files, such as dispute settlement, confidence-building and the management of common resources, especially water. That initiative is part of our vision to strengthen our role as a pivotal actor in the region, seeking to bring the conflicting parties closer together and facilitate constructive dialogue. Hosting such a headquarters underscores Iraq’s commitment to multilateral action and supporting diplomatic frameworks to resolve complex issues. It also reflects Iraq’s desire to create a stable and attractive regional environment for cooperation based on transparency and mutual respect. That approach is a step towards building an effective regional solidarity system that puts common interests above differences, as Iraq believes that sustainable solutions come through dialogue, not confrontation.

Regarding security matters, Iraq is currently working to recover Iraqi families detained in Syria’s Al-Hol camp through a special committee formed through coordination between Iraqi institutions regarding the security and humanitarian aspect, namely, the National Security Advisory and the Ministry of Migration and Displaced. The committee aims to facilitate the safe and orderly repatriation of those families, while providing them with the necessary support to ensure their reintegration into society. The presence of Da’esh remnants on Syrian territory poses a common security threat that could negatively affect counter-terrorism efforts in Iraq. The preservation of the Al-Hol camp in its current state is a major source of concern owing to the presence of extremist elements and families associated with Da’esh, which could exacerbate the security situation. The Government of Iraq therefore stresses the need to deal seriously with those files through effective regional and international cooperation and to find sustainable solutions for Al-Hol camp and prevent the region from becoming a focus of constant danger.

Iraq launched the national security strategy for 2025–2030, known as Iraq First. It aims to build balanced international partnerships as part of the Iraqi national programme to enhance security, stability, sovereignty and prosperity. It represents the basic national document to protect the entity of the State from the challenges and changes that threaten it domestically and from abroad and create

the appropriate requirements for achieving stability in its regional and international relations in accordance with article 110 of the Iraqi Constitution. Iraq has also explored new investment and economic development horizons through investments by many foreign firms, which indicates the international community's trust in Iraq's institutions and their ability to protect our security and political stability. Iraq stresses that the reports of the Secretary-General should not include information on some of the regular security incidents that occur in all countries of the world, as the security situation in Iraq is back to normal. Iraq would like to take this opportunity to call on all States to review and update their warnings regarding travel to Iraq in a manner that is consistent with that fact.

Regarding the transition and drawdown process of UNAMI, the Government of Iraq, represented by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, was keen to work intensively with UNAMI to prepare and formulate the transition and liquidation plan, which represented a road map for transferring the Mission's remaining tasks to the relevant authorities and gradually liquidating its assets and withdrawing, in continuous cooperation with the Iraqi Government. Following the formal release of the transition and liquidation plan by the Secretary-General, the Iraqi Government has proceeded, in coordination with UNAMI, towards implementing the plan and in close coordination and communication with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to overcome any obstacles that could arise during the transition and liquidation process. Iraq has agreed to the United Nations country team taking over the two integrated compounds in Baghdad and Erbil after UNAMI's departure and has promised to provide all required assistance to enable the team to fully perform its tasks. We are working steadily on the drawdown, closure and handover of UNAMI headquarters in Iraq in accordance with the transition and liquidation plan, and cooperation between Iraq and UNAMI is taking place at the highest levels to facilitate the removal and movement of UNAMI tangible assets and other revenues.

Iraq's takeover of the UNAMI site in Mosul marks the beginning of a new era for Iraq and the United Nations, as well as Iraq's commitment to its international obligations and the plan concluded by Iraq with the United Nations for the withdrawal of UNAMI, and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Government team in charge of the transition and liquidation process has worked to address all issues that could arise during the withdrawal process. The handover of the Mosul site from UNAMI was handled smoothly and without any obstacles. Iraq is continuing to strengthen its relations with the United Nations country team, as the Ministries concerned have completed all requirements for presenting the draft 2025–2029 cooperation frameworks to the Council of Ministers in the next few days. We are working towards signing a strategic agreement with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East aimed at providing political support to the Agency and financial support of \$30 million, after we joined its advisory board, as per General Assembly resolution 79/88.

Regarding the Secretary-General's initiative on the occasion of the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Iraq is currently considering the possibility of hosting some United Nations offices and providing them with premises in Iraq, in the form of temporary use or symbolic rent payments.

Regarding our relationship with the State of Kuwait, since 2003 and over the past two decades, Iraq has proven its principled position based on respect for good-neighbourliness with the brotherly State of Kuwait and the strengthening of bilateral relations with it in all political, economic and social fields. It is seriously seeking to resolve all outstanding issues with the State of Kuwait, which were simply the outcome of the individual dictatorial behaviour of the head of the previous regime. Iraq has fulfilled its obligations related to the payment of compensation to the State of Kuwait, amounting to \$52.4 billion, as confirmed in resolution 2621 (2022),

which indicates Iraq's keenness to fulfil its obligations towards the State of Kuwait. Iraq has also fulfilled all its obligations regarding the demarcation of the border between the two countries up to marker 162, as stated in paragraph 22 of the thirty-fifth report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/357) and pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 1284 (1999). Iraq affirms its steadfast position that the completion of the demarcation of the maritime boundary beyond marker 162 is subject to bilateral frameworks between Iraq and Kuwait, which is being conducted in an open and direct manner. We have made remarkable progress through the continuous meetings of the competent bilateral committees with real political will to resolve the issue and reach a fair bilateral demarcation that takes into account the interests of both countries.

Iraq's political leadership has sustained and strengthened relations with Kuwait. On 15 April, His Excellency the President of the Republic and His Excellency the Prime Minister took the very important step of submitting two separate requests to the Federal Supreme Court to reverse its 2023 decision, which invalidated the ratification of the agreement on regulating maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah. That reflects the foresight of the Iraqi leadership and its serious desire to settle this file with the brotherly State of Kuwait. Iraq has continuously demonstrated — especially under the current Government — its firm determination to settle all files in the framework of friendly diplomatic endeavours.

Iraq has appointed Mr. Muhammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, as Iraq's Special Envoy to the State of Kuwait, and the State of Kuwait has appointed Mr. Muhammad Abdullah Abu Al Hasan, Adviser at the Amiri Diwan, as Special Envoy to Iraq. That will facilitate the processing of all files within common bilateral frameworks, settling issues calmly and with mutual wisdom. The Ministries for Foreign Affairs of Iraq and Kuwait have agreed to resume the work of the joint technical committee for the maintenance of the physical delimitation of the border between the two countries and to nominate members of the committee from both sides. The joint committee between Iraq and Kuwait will work to reach agreed arrangements for maritime security cooperation in accordance with previous mechanisms, which will help to regulate maritime activities and ensure maritime security and immediately and jointly work on the initiation of a deepening and excavation survey for the Khor Abdullah waterway to facilitate the entry into Iraq of large ships, thereby facilitating the import of liquid gas by means of ships that require a certain depth of waterway.

We would like to refer to the understanding on the continued excavation works beyond marker 162, which facilitates the movement of ships and thereby supports the commercial and economic interests of both neighbouring countries. It should be noted that the excavation is currently under way to carry out that mission, and Iraq's relentless endeavour to participate in the engineering effort of the excavation and deepen the Khor Abdullah waterway comes as a contribution from Iraq to the preservation of international legitimacy, particularly resolution 833 (1993), which refers to the importance of commitment to navigational access.

We continue official cooperation and meetings between Iraqi authorities, including the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and UNAMI to follow up on avenues for progress on the file of missing Kuwaiti persons and Kuwaiti property. Iraq continues with great interest to follow up this file, as specialized committees established to that end continue their diligent work, including carrying out excavation work in thousands of sites, analysing satellite images and using drones with the support and participation of friendly and brotherly countries through the Tripartite Commission chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross. So far, the remains of 294 missing Kuwaitis have been found, and the search is still under way for the remains of 283 missing Kuwaitis and third-country nationals. Iraq also stresses the need to deal with that file in a technical and humanitarian manner and to avoid politicizing

it for any reason. The system continues to send official appeals regularly by the Iraqi official authorities to urge Iraqi citizens to report any information about the remains of Kuwaiti and third-country nationals missing in Iraq, as well as Kuwaiti archives and property.

In the same context, Iraq has called on the United Nations to search for the remains of Iraqis who went missing in the second Gulf War of 1991. Iraq has agreed to resume the work of the Iraq-Kuwait joint committee on Kuwaiti national property and archives, and the next meeting will be held upon agreement of the two parties and once the members of the committee have been nominated. Over the past few decades, Iraq has worked to return tons of Kuwaiti property and Amiri archives, as indicated in the international reports issued by the Secretary-General in that regard, and we are currently returning a new batch of Kuwaiti property. Iraq is also publishing periodic bulletins to urge the public to provide information. It has also repeatedly asked our Kuwaiti brothers to provide it with lists containing a full description of all the property and Amiri archives that Iraq has not returned to Kuwait so far, as indicated in the thirty-fifth report of the Secretary-General in 2013, issued pursuant to resolution 1284 (1999) and the third report of the Secretary-General issued in 2014 pursuant to resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2014/480). Providing clear descriptions and lists will help greatly to speed up the search for those properties and tell the Amiri archive from other types of property to be returned.

The Government of Iraq is keen to search for and investigate the handover of any property and documents belonging to the Kuwaiti national archives and seek their return to the brotherly State of Kuwait. We have also allocated financial awards to those who provide information or evidence. We note here that the Iraqi and Kuwaiti sides are currently working on procedures for the handover to Kuwait of a total of 120 boxes of Kuwaiti property recently found. In another gesture that reflects Iraq's commitment to settling all files with the brotherly State of Kuwait, in December 2024, the Iraqi Government removed residential houses from the area of Um Qasr that were hindering the construction of a pipeline belonging to neighbouring Kuwait, reflecting our respect for our bilateral understandings and facilitating the implementation of economic and developmental projects.

To enhance communication and interaction between the peoples of Iraq and Kuwait, Iraq believes that the page must be turned on the past. It has therefore taken important steps to facilitate the approval of entry visas for Kuwaiti nationals wishing to visit Iraq, which was evident during the Arabian Gulf Cup hosted by Iraq in 2023, when Iraq received tens of thousands of Kuwaiti citizens. Kuwait also gave the approval of entry visas for thousands of Iraqi nationals, reflecting the positive fraternal relations between the two brotherly peoples. Many recent Security Council resolutions and reports of the Secretary-General have underscored the importance of the international community's support for Iraq to restore its normal position in the international arena. The time has come, after nearly 35 years, for Kuwait to turn the page on the past marked by the individual behaviour of the former dictatorial regime's President and to start to cooperate with Iraq to promote development and prosperity in both neighbouring countries, achieve the well-being of all brotherly peoples and build a better future for future generations.

In its most recent letter to the Secretary-General in March (S/2025/143), Iraq submitted several proposals aimed at reaching a final settlement of the issues of missing Kuwaiti nationals and property, including the establishment by Iraq of a national body to search for those missing nationals and property and Kuwait establishing a focal point within its Embassy in Baghdad to cooperate with the official authorities in Iraq so that we can promptly and completely settle the matter, in the best interests of both parties after consultation with the Secretary-General. Iraq also welcomes the Secretary-General's good offices efforts in that regard.

Lastly, Iraq is an institutional State that adopts a system of separation of powers between the executive, legislator and the judiciary, and decision-making in Iraq requires integration and interplay between those three powers. The past two decades have proven that Iraq believes in the importance of finding lasting peace with all neighbours and brothers, especially with the brotherly State of Kuwait. Regarding the forty-second report of the Secretary-General (S/2025/320), his recommendations and the mechanism contained in paragraphs 50 and 51 of the report on the follow-up of the issues of missing Kuwaiti, Iraqi and third-country nationals, Iraq reaffirms the contents of the letter it sent to the Secretary-General in March.

In conclusion, I thank His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for the firm position of the United Nations in supporting Iraq and respecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity. We are grateful for the efforts of UNAMI and the United Nations agencies and international organizations working in Iraq.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kuwait.

Mr. Albanai (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): I am honoured to address the Security Council today. Madam President, allow me to congratulate your friendly country on presiding over the work of our Council this month. I would also like to congratulate the outgoing presidency, friendly Greece, for its efforts last month. I welcome my brother, Ambassador Mohamed Al Hassan, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). I express our deep appreciation for the sincere efforts of the Special Representative and his team and the vital role played by UNAMI, the Tripartite Commission, the Technical Subcommittee and the International Committee of the Red Cross in following up on this crucial humanitarian file, namely, that of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons and third-country nationals and that of Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

We listened with great interest to the Council members' statements regarding the importance of diligent follow-up to this purely humanitarian file. I thank you, Madam President, for your understanding of the file. However, the file of prisoners and missing persons and the file of Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, are not political files or bilateral disputes, but rather exclusively humanitarian files. The families of the missing, who have been waiting for decades to know the fate of their loved ones, deserve truth and justice. An entire nation is awaiting the return of its national archives, which are a symbol of its identity, history and collective memory. It is a matter of inherent rights that are imprescriptible, and they must not be subject to any political calculations or procedural delays. Ending the suffering requires a genuine desire to resolve the file by translating words into concrete actions, without procrastination or delay.

The report of the Secretary-General before us (S/2025/320), which was issued on 23 May pursuant to resolution 2107 (2013), clearly reflects the extent of procrastination and hesitation and notes that much remains to be done. While we follow what was stated, we cannot fail to recall that more than 300 people are still missing, with little progress in that regard. Their uncertain fate continues to weigh heavily on their families and disrupts the process of human justice that we all seek. In that context and with reference to the report currently before us on the follow-up by UNAMI to the files of prisoners, missing persons, third-country nationals and Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, we thank the Secretary-General and his team for their efforts. We thank them for underscoring the need to continue the United Nations follow-up of those two files once UNAMI's mandate is terminated. In that regard, the State of Kuwait affirms its full support for the Secretary-General's first recommendation contained in paragraph 50 of the report concerning the appointment of a senior United Nations official tasked exclusively

with following up on this file once the Mission's mandate expires in December. Past experience prior to 2013, during the tenure of the High-Level Coordinator pursuant to resolution 1284 (1999), proved that having a mechanism dedicated exclusively to this file leads to tangible and effective results, helping to maintain momentum and ensure the continuity of efforts without interruption. We therefore believe that reviving that framework is essential and vital to achieving our desired goals.

It is important to stress that cooperation through the United Nations is a key element in the success of those efforts. The work of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee, chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross, in cooperation with UNAMI as an observer, was an example of constructive coordination that must be strengthened. However, at the same time, the responsibility of the Security Council remained essential to ensuring compliance with its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 2107 (2013) and 2732 (2024). The resolutions adopted by the Council must be respected and translated into practical steps that ensure the acceleration and activation of stalled paths, especially regarding the exploration of new evidence using modern technology, field observations and witness statements to identify promising sites of interest, as mentioned in the reports of the Secretary-General. The continuation of the follow-up mechanism and the submission of reports to the Council through the mechanism therefore constitute key pillars within the approved courses of action. That would offer a coordination and practical framework among the parties concerned, in a way that enhances transparency and international follow-up. We also emphasize here that the issue of the Kuwaiti national archives is not only a symbolic matter, but rather it represents a cornerstone in protecting the Kuwaiti national memory. Any delay in that area would therefore undermine the historical justice that we demand.

The State of Kuwait believes that bilateral cooperation with Iraq remains essential. However, at the same time, we believe that the continued supervision of the Security Council through a high-level mechanism is indispensable to ensuring full compliance and careful follow-up. The experience of the past few decades has taught us that the absence of international follow-up would surely lead to a slowdown or stalemate, which is unacceptable after such a long course of suffering. The State of Kuwait also stresses the importance of the Security Council assuming its role in emphasizing the need to commit to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by it. Today the greatest responsibility lies with the members of the Council to guarantee the implementation of its resolutions. Those responsibilities include effective implementation and follow-up mechanisms to ensure full compliance with those resolutions and follow-up on their developments. The necessary measures in the event of non-implementation must also be taken. Moreover, we reaffirm that our demand for the implementation of Security Council resolutions is not only a Kuwaiti demand — it is a legitimate demand based on the responsibilities entrusted to the Security Council in its capacity as the body concerned with the maintenance of international peace and security.

In conclusion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General and his team, the International Committee of the Red Cross and all those international and regional bodies that have contributed and continue to contribute to advancing this file. We also affirm from this rostrum that the State of Kuwait will remain a committed and dedicated partner in cooperating with all stakeholders to reach a just and equitable solution that restores rights to their owners, gives the families of the missing and victims the justice that they deserve and returns to our nation its national memory.

The President: The representative of Iraq has asked for the floor to make a further statement. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Al-Fatlawi (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): Through you, Madam President, I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of the brotherly State of Kuwait.

However, I would like to comment on what he kindly said, namely, that resolution 2107 (2013) set out a path to strengthen bilateral efforts between Iraq and Kuwait and address the situation of missing persons and Kuwaiti archives without the punitive mechanisms imposed under Chapter VII. The submission of reports to the Security Council is a mechanism stipulated by the Council as part of sanctions, which was then referred to Chapter VI to encourage bilateral cooperation between the two countries. As is well known, Iraq has implemented or fulfilled all the international obligations imposed on it by international resolutions.

Regarding the Kuwaiti archives and missing Kuwaiti nationals, Iraq will make efforts through, and with, the Tripartite Commission and the friendly countries that have provided us with satellite imagery and advanced devices to search for the remains of missing persons, whether from the State of Kuwait or third countries. Iraq has not, and will not, spared any effort in providing assistance and searching for missing Kuwaitis and the Kuwaiti national archives, because we do not want to leave any outstanding issues reminiscent of the past, the burden of which we are currently bearing as a result of what the former regime committed through an individual decision to invade the State of Kuwait. Iraq's doors are open, our hands are outstretched and, as I said in the statement I just made, several initiatives have been launched by Iraq to find sustainable solutions to that issue. We have no interest in not finding sustainable solutions to the issue. I reiterate Iraq's sincere call to implement those initiatives through bilateral cooperation with the relevant agencies and committees that were formed, whether in the State of Kuwait or the Republic of Iraq, to resolve those outstanding issues.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at noon.