



Security Council

Distr.: General
28 December 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 21 December 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution [2379 \(2017\)](#), in which the Council requested me to establish an investigative team, headed by a special adviser, to support domestic efforts to hold Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) accountable, by collecting, preserving and storing evidence in Iraq of acts that might amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by ISIL (Da'esh) in Iraq, as well as my letters dated 20 November 2017 ([S/2017/989](#)) and 14 December 2017 ([S/2017/1072](#)) addressed to the President of the Security Council and the letters dated 27 November 2017 ([S/2017/990](#)) and 18 December 2017 ([S/2017/1073](#)) from the President addressed to me in response.

The Security Council, in the letter from its President dated 18 December 2017, took note of my request for an additional period of time, until 21 December 2017, for the submission of the terms of reference of the investigative team.

Notwithstanding the best efforts of the Secretariat to finalize terms of reference acceptable to the Government of Iraq, in particular to resolve the issue concerning the sharing of evidence by the team in respect of any criminal proceedings in which capital punishment could be imposed or carried out, it has not been possible thus far to resolve that issue and, consequently, to finalize terms of reference acceptable to the Government.

I therefore request an extension of the deadline for the submission of the terms of reference, until 19 January 2018, in order to continue the efforts of the Secretariat in this regard. If such terms of reference acceptable to the Government are finalized beforehand, the Security Council will be informed accordingly.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António Guterres

