



## Security Council

Distr.: General  
21 December 2020

Original: English

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### **Letter dated 18 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2555 (2020), related to the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East” and adopted on 18 December 2020. Resolution 2555 (2020) was adopted in accordance with the voting procedure set out in the letter by the President of the Security Council dated 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253), a procedure agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

Pursuant to that procedure, I enclose herewith copies of the related documents:

My letter dated 17 December 2020, addressed to the Permanent Representatives of Security Council members (see annex I), putting to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/1232 (see enclosure to annex I);

Letters received in reply from Security Council members indicating their national positions on the draft resolution (see annexes II to XVI).

This letter and its annexes will be issued as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Jerry Matthews **Matjila**  
President of the Security Council



## Annex I

### **Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council**

In accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the members of the Security Council in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, as set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the members of the Council (S/2020/253), I would like to draw your attention to the following.

The members of the Council have discussed a draft resolution, submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America, in connection with the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”. That draft resolution, contained in document S/2020/1232 and enclosed herein, has been put into blue.

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I hereby put the above-mentioned draft resolution to a vote. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period for this draft resolution will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 17 December 2020. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period will expire at 10 a.m. on Friday, 18 December 2020.

Please submit your vote (in favour, against or abstain) on the draft resolution, as well as your possible explanation of vote, by sending a letter signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d'affaires a.i. within the non-extendable 24-hour voting period set out above to the Officer-in-Charge of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Secretariat ([sutterlin@un.org](mailto:sutterlin@un.org)).

It is my intention to circulate a letter recording the outcome of the vote within three hours of the conclusion of the 24-hour voting period. I also intend to convene a video-teleconference of the Security Council to announce the outcome of the vote shortly after the conclusion of the voting period, on the afternoon of Friday, 18 December 2020.

*(Signed)* Jerry Matthews **Matjila**  
President of the Security Council

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**Enclosure**

United Nations

S/2020/1232

**Security Council**Provisional  
16 December 2020

Original : English

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**Russian Federation and United States of America: draft resolution***The Security Council,*

*Noting* with concern that the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached,

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) of 25 September 2020 (S/2020/945) and 2 December 2020 (S/2020/1159), and also reaffirming its resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000,

*Stressing* that both parties must abide by the terms of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and scrupulously observe the ceasefire,

*Expressing* concern that the ongoing military activities conducted by any actor in the area of separation continue to have the potential to escalate tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries, and pose a risk to the local civilian population and United Nations personnel on the ground,

*Expressing* its appreciation in this regard to UNDOF's liaison efforts to prevent any escalation of the situation across the ceasefire line,

*Expressing* alarm that violence in the Syrian Arab Republic risks a serious conflagration of the conflict in the region,

*Expressing* concern at all violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement,

*Noting* the Secretary-General's latest report on the situation in the area of operations of UNDOF, including findings about weapons fire across the ceasefire line as well as ongoing military activity on the Bravo side of the area of separation, and in this regard underscoring that there should be no military forces, military equipment, or personnel in the area of separation other than those of UNDOF,

*Calling* upon all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict to cease military actions throughout the country, including in the UNDOF area of operations, and to respect international humanitarian law,

*Noting* the significant threat to the UN personnel in the UNDOF area of operation from unexploded ordnance, explosive remnants of war and mines, and

*emphasizing* in this regard the need for demining and clearance operations in strict compliance with the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement,

*Reaffirming* its readiness to consider listing individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities providing support to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) or to the Al-Nusra Front (also known as Jabhat Fateh al-Sham or Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham), including those who are financing, arming, planning, or recruiting for ISIL or the Al-Nusra Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities associated with ISIL and Al-Qaida as listed on the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List, including those participating in or otherwise supporting attacks against UNDOF peacekeepers,

*Recognizing* the necessity of efforts to flexibly adjust UNDOF's posture to minimize the security risk to UNDOF personnel as UNDOF continues to implement its mandate, while emphasizing that the ultimate goal is for the peacekeepers to return to UNDOF's area of operations as soon as practicable,

*Emphasizing* the importance of Security Council and troop-contributing countries having access to reports and information related to UNDOF's redeployment configuration, and reinforcing that such information assists the Security Council with evaluating, mandating, and reviewing UNDOF and with effective consultation with troop-contributing countries,

*Underscoring* the need for UNDOF to have at its disposal all necessary means and resources to carry out its mandate safely and securely, including technology and equipment to enhance its observation of the area of separation and the ceasefire line, and to improve force protection, as appropriate, and *recalling* that the theft of United Nations weapons and ammunition, vehicles and other assets, and the looting and destruction of United Nations facilities, are unacceptable,

*Expressing* its profound appreciation to UNDOF's military and civilian personnel, including those from Observer Group Golan, for their service in an ongoing, challenging operating environment, *underscoring* the important contribution UNDOF's continued presence makes to peace and security in the Middle East, *welcoming* steps taken to enhance the safety and security of UNDOF, including Observer Group Golan, personnel, and *stressing* the need for continued vigilance to ensure the safety and security of UNDOF and Observer Group Golan personnel,

*Strongly condemning* incidents threatening the safety and security of United Nations personnel,

*Expressing* its appreciation to UNDOF, including Observer Group Golan, for re-establishing its presence at Camp Faouar and for further progress towards expanding its presence in its area of operations through patrols and rehabilitation of positions on the Bravo side,

*Taking note* of the Secretary-General's plan for UNDOF to return to the Bravo side based on a continuous assessment of security in the area of separation and its surroundings, and continued discussion and coordination with the parties,

*Recalls* that UNDOF's deployment and the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement are steps toward a just and durable peace on the basis of Security Council Resolution 338 (1973),

*Recalling* resolution 2378 (2017) and its request of the Secretary-General to ensure that data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, including peacekeeping performance data, is used to improve analytics and the evaluation of mission operations, based on clear and well identified benchmarks, and further recalling resolution 2436 (2018) and its request of the Secretary-General to

ensure that decisions to recognize and incentivize outstanding performance and decisions regarding deployment, remediation, training, withholding of financial reimbursement, and repatriation of uniformed or dismissal of civilian personnel, are predicated on objective performance data,

*Recalling* resolution 2242 (2015) and its aspiration to increase the number of women in military and police contingents of United Nations peacekeeping operations,

1. *Calls* upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. *Stresses* the obligation on both parties to scrupulously and fully respect the terms of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement, *calls* on the parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation, *encourages* the parties to take full advantage of UNDOF's liaison function regularly to address issues of mutual concern, as appropriate, and to maintain their liaison with UNDOF to prevent any escalation of the situation across the ceasefire line, as well as to support the enhancement of the UNDOF liaison function, and *underscores* that there should be no military activity of any kind in the area of separation, including military operations by the Syrian Arab Armed Forces;

3. *Underlines* that UNDOF remains an impartial entity and stresses the importance to halt all activities that endanger United Nations peacekeepers on the ground and to accord the United Nations personnel on the ground the freedom to carry out their mandate safely and securely;

4. *Expresses* full support for Major General Ishwar Hamal as Head of Mission and Force Commander;

5. *Calls on* all groups other than UNDOF to abandon all UNDOF positions, and return the peacekeepers' vehicles, weapons, and other equipment;

6. *Calls on* all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of UNDOF, to respect its privileges and immunities and to ensure its freedom of movement, as well as the security of and unhindered and immediate access for the United Nations personnel carrying out their mandate, including the unimpeded delivery of UNDOF equipment and the temporary use of alternative ports of entry and departure, as required, to ensure safe and secure troop rotation and resupply activities, in conformity with existing agreements, and urges prompt reporting by the Secretary-General to the Security Council and troop-contributing countries of any actions that impede UNDOF's ability to fulfil its mandate;

7. *Calls on* the parties to provide all the necessary support to allow for the full utilization of the Quneitra crossing by UNDOF in line with established procedures and to lift COVID-19 related restrictions as soon as sanitary conditions permit, to allow UNDOF to increase its operations on the Bravo side to facilitate effective and efficient mandate implementation;

8. *Requests* UNDOF, within existing capacities and resources, member states, and relevant parties to take all appropriate steps to protect the safety, security and health of all UNDOF personnel, in line with resolution 2518 (2020), taking into account the impact of COVID-19 pandemic;

9. *Welcomes* UNDOF's ongoing efforts to consolidate its presence and to intensify its operations in the area of separation, including the mission's intent to resume inspections in the area of limitation on the Bravo side conditions permitting per the Mission's assessment, as well as the cooperation of the parties to facilitate this return, together with continued efforts to plan for UNDOF's expeditious return

to the area of separation, including the provision of adequate force protection, based on a continuous assessment of security in the area;

10. *Underscores* the importance of progress in the deployment of appropriate technology, including counter-improvised explosive device (IED) capabilities and a sense and warn system, as well as in addressing civilian staffing needs, to ensure the safety and security of UNDOF personnel and equipment, following appropriate consultations with the parties, and notes in this regard that the Secretary-General's proposal for such technologies has been delivered to the parties for approval;

11. *Encourages* the parties to the Disengagement Agreement to engage constructively to facilitate necessary arrangements with UNDOF for the force's return to the area of separation, taking into account existing agreements;

12. *Encourages* the Department of Peace Operations, UNDOF, and the UN Truce Supervision Organization to continue relevant discussions on recommendations from the 2018 independent review to improve mission performance and implementation of UNDOF's mandate;

13. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardize a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping, *recalls* its request in resolution 2378 (2017) and resolution 2436 (2018) that the Secretary-General ensure that performance data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations is used to improve mission operations, including decisions such as those regarding deployment, remediation, repatriation and incentives, and *reaffirms* its support for the development of a comprehensive and integrated performance policy framework that identifies clear standards of performance for evaluating all United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel working in and supporting peacekeeping operations that facilitates effective and full implementation of mandates, and includes comprehensive and objective methodologies based on clear and well-defined benchmarks to ensure accountability for underperformance and incentives and recognition for outstanding performance, and *calls* on the United Nations to apply this framework to UNDOF as described in resolution 2436 (2018), *notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop a comprehensive performance assessment system and *requests* the Secretary-General and troop- and police-contributing countries to seek to increase the number of women in UNDOF, as well as to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of uniformed and civilian women at all levels, and in all positions, including senior leadership positions, and to implement other relevant provisions of resolution 2538 (2020);

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure full compliance of all personnel in UNDOF, civilian and uniformed, including mission leadership and mission support personnel with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Council fully informed through his reports to the Council about the Mission's progress in this regard, including by reporting on the start, agreed deadlines, and outcomes of 2272 reviews, stresses the need to prevent such exploitation and abuse and to improve how these allegations are addressed in line with resolution 2272 (2016), and urges troop- and police-contributing countries to continue taking appropriate preventive action, including vetting of all personnel, pre-deployment and in-mission awareness training, and to take appropriate steps to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel through timely investigation of allegations by troop- and police-contributing countries, and UNDOF as appropriate, holding perpetrators to account and repatriating units when there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation and abuse by those units;

15. *Decides* to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a period of six months, that is, until 30 June 2021, and *requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that UNDOF has the required capacity and resources to fulfil the mandate in a safe and secure way;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report every 90 days on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338 (1973).

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## Annex II

### **Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the letter by the President of the Security Council's dated 17 December 2020 relating to the draft resolution on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (S/2020/1232).

In accordance with the procedure set forth for the adoption of draft resolutions under the current extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, I am pleased to indicate that Belgium votes in favour of this draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Philippe **Kridelka**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations



### **Annex III**

#### **Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I would like to thank you, Sir, and your team for the strong support in facilitating the voting procedure.

Please be kindly informed that China vote in favour of draft resolution S/2020/1232, submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America for the mandate renewal of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

*(Signed)* **Dai Bing**  
Ambassador

Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations

**Annex IV**

**Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Special Envoy to the Security Council of the Dominican Republic addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to your letter dated 17 December 2020, regarding the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/1232, submitted under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”.

Upon instructions from my Government, the delegation of the Dominican Republic votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* José **Singer Weisinger**  
Ambassador

Special Envoy to the Security Council of the Dominican Republic

**Annex V****Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to inform you, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter, that my delegation votes in favour of the draft resolution regarding the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, contained in document S/2020/1232.

*(Signed)* **Sven Jürgenson**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations

## Annex VI

### **Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: French]

I refer to the letter dated 17 December 2020, calling on the members of the Council to vote on the draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America under the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”, put into blue under the symbol S/2020/1232. France votes in favour.

(Signed) **Nicolas de Rivière**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

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**Annex VII****Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

It is my honour to write in response to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 17 December 2020 initiating a written voting procedure in accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the members of the Security Council in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, as set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the members of the Council (S/2020/253).

The vote of the Federal Republic of Germany on the draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East” and regarding the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, as contained in document S/2020/1232, is as follows:

The Federal Republic of Germany votes in favour of the above-mentioned resolution.

*(Signed)* **Christophe Heusgen**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

## Annex VIII

### **Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing in reference to the letter from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, dated 17 December 2020, regarding the draft resolution on the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (S/2020/1232).

I hereby indicate that Indonesia votes in favour of the said resolution.

*(Signed)* Dian Triansyah **Djani**  
Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

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**Annex IX****Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing in response to the letter of the President of the Security Council dated 17 December 2020, calling on the members of the Council to express their votes on the draft resolution (S/2020/1232) submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America under the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”.

In accordance with the agreed temporary procedures for the adoption of draft resolutions during the coronavirus disease pandemic restrictions, I have the honour to indicate that the Republic of the Niger decides to vote in favour of the said draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Niandou **Aougi**  
Minister Counsellor  
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Niger to the United Nations

**Annex X**

**Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 17 December 2020, on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East" (S/2020/1232).

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council being in place during the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic, outlined in the letter by the President of the Security Council of 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Federation votes in favour of the draft resolution S/2020/1232.

*(Signed)* Dmitry Polyanskiy  
Ambassador

Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Russian Federation to the United Nations



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**Annex XI****Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution (S/2020/1232) submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America regarding the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

In this respect, I wish to inform that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Inga Rhonda **King**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations

## Annex XII

### **Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the letter dated 17 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council regarding the draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East” and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, contained in document S/2020/1232.

The delegation of the Republic of South Africa votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Jerry Matthews **Matjila**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

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**Annex XIII****Letter dated 17 December from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Further to the letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, regarding the draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”, as contained in document (S/2020/1232), I would like to inform you that Tunisia votes in favour of that draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Tarek **Ladeb**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

**Annex XIV**

**Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

With reference to the letter from the President of the Security Council of 17 December 2020, the United Kingdom votes in favour on the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/1232, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”.

*(Signed)* Barbara **Woodward**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland to the United Nations

**Annex XV**

**Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On the draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East” (S/2020/1232), the United States of America votes in favour.

*(Signed)* **Kelly Craft**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the United States of America  
to the United Nations

**Annex XVI**

**Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

In reference to the letter by the President of the Security Council dated 17 December 2020, relating to the draft resolution under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”, as contained in document S/2020/1232, I would like to hereby inform you that Viet Nam votes in favour of the said draft resolution.

*(Signed)* **Dang Dinh Quy**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations

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