

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 11 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to our note verbale of 20 November 2020, upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 11 February 2021 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, Fouad Hussein, which conveys the request of the Government of the Republic of Iraq for the support of the Security Council in observing the upcoming early election that will take place on 10 October 2021 (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council and circulated to all States members of the Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Hussein **Bahr Aluloom**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 11 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Further to my letter dated 18 November 2020 addressed to Inga Rhonda King, then President of the Security Council, regarding the holding of early parliamentary elections in Iraq and my Government's request that the United Nations undertake to monitor those elections, I should like to inform the Council that the Iraqi Cabinet, meeting on 19 January 2021, voted unanimously to set the date of 10 October 2021 for those elections, in line with the proposal submitted by the Independent High Electoral Commission.

Taking into account the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) under paragraph 2 (b) of Security Council resolution [2522 \(2020\)](#), the holding of these elections is a clear response to popular demands for fair, transparent and credible elections, pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 180 (2020). Allow me, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Iraq, to request that the Council reinforce UNAMI to include election observers by sending United Nations observers to work within UNAMI to observe the upcoming Iraqi elections in a manner that guarantees Iraqi sovereignty, bearing in mind that the current UNAMI mandate expires on 31 May 2021.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq recognizes that its request for election monitoring is exceptional and for one time only. The core of its request is for United Nations observers operating under the aegis of UNAMI to be deployed in polling stations, starting with an initial team and gradually increasing coverage to 10 per cent on election day, and for an assessment by UNAMI of the electoral process and related technical issues.

In closing, I should like to reiterate that the Government of the Republic of Iraq is committed to establishing the best possible cooperation framework with both the Council and UNAMI to provide the election monitoring necessary to meet the standards of transparency and credibility desired by all, as set forth in the programme submitted to the House of Representatives by the Government.

Fouad Hussein
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq
