

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
25 October 2019

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-fourth session
Agenda item 34
The situation in the Middle East****Security Council
Seventy-fourth year****Identical letters dated 18 October 2019 from the Permanent
Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the League of Arab States, and in the capacity of Iraq as the current president of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 15 October 2019 from the Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the United Nations (see annex) transmitting the final statement adopted by the Council of the League at the ministerial level at the consultative meeting held in New York on 23 September 2019 (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34.

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



**Annex to the identical letters dated 18 October 2019 from the
Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

[Original: Arabic]

**Letter dated 15 October 2019 from the Permanent Observer
Mission of the League of Arab States addressed to the
United Nations**

In accordance with the practice followed by the Group of Arab States whereby the chair of each ministerial or summit session of the Council of the League of Arab States is charged with transmitting relevant decisions to the appropriate bodies of the United Nations with an official memorandum or letter from the office of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States in New York, and in accordance with article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the final statement that the Council of the League, convened at the ministerial level, adopted at its consultative meeting, which was held 23 September 2019 in New York on the margins of the high-level segment of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly (see enclosure).

In accordance with the instructions of the secretariat of the League of Arab States in that regard, I should be grateful if you would transmit the present letter and its enclosure to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for issuance as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 34, and to the President of the Security Council, for issuance as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Maged Abdelfattah **Abdelaziz**
Ambassador
Head of the Observer Mission, New York

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]

Final statement adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level at its consultative meeting held in New York on 23 September 2019

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level held a consultative meeting on Monday, 23 September 2019, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq and chair of the current session of the Council, Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim, chaired the meeting, which was attended by Arab ministers for foreign affairs and the Secretary-General of the League, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit.

The ministers reviewed the latest developments in the Arab region and related meetings and consultations that were held during the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly. They did so in the light of Council statements and resolutions that were adopted at the ordinary summit session held in Tunisia and the extraordinary session held in Mecca, as well as the resolutions that the Council of the League at the ministerial level adopted at its most recent meeting, which was held on 10 September 2019 in Cairo.

The Council of the League, after discussing the latest developments in various aspects of the question of Palestine, and having been briefed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, reaffirmed the importance of implementing the resolutions that it most recently adopted and the ministerial statement that was adopted at the extraordinary session of the Council, in which the Council calls for a response to be made in international forums to the illegal statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he would annex parts of the West Bank and the shores of the Dead Sea if he were to win the elections. The Council also reaffirmed that it is necessary to intensify efforts to renew, by an overwhelming majority, the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the three coming years and to eliminate the Agency's \$120 million financial deficit. The Council called for a response to be made to the settlement-building plans of Israel in Jerusalem, in particular given the decision of the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In that connection, the Council called for the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), to be implemented. In that same connection, the Council reaffirmed the importance of ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, on the basis of the two-State solution and long-standing international terms of reference, which include international law and the Arab Peace Initiative. The Council reaffirmed the need to mobilize international support in the General Assembly for resolutions on the question of Palestine, with a view to achieving the goal of establishing of an independent, sovereign Palestinian State on the basis of the 4 June 1967 borders, with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital.

In view of the terrorist attacks that have occurred in the Arab Gulf region, in particular those directed against Saudi Arabia, and which constitute a serious threat to regional peace, the Council condemned, in the strongest terms, the recent destructive terrorist attacks against the Abqaiq and Khurays oil facilities in Saudi Arabia. Those attacks represent a serious threat not only to regional security, but also to international security and world energy supplies. The Council declared that it stands in solidarity with Saudi Arabia in response to any threat to the country's security and stability, and that it supports all the measures that Saudi Arabia has taken to strengthen security and stability and counter any aggression. The Council reiterated that it condemns the attacks that have been carried out against oil tankers and commercial vessels in the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, including the attacks against two Saudi Arabian oil tankers, a Norwegian oil tanker and a United Arab Emirates cargo vessel that were carried out in the territorial waters of the United Arab

Emirates on 12 May 2019 and the attack against two oil tankers that was carried out in the Gulf of Oman on 13 June 2019. Those attacks are criminal acts that threaten the security and safety of international maritime traffic in the Arab Gulf States. The Council of the League reiterated the call that it made in its resolution 8412 of 10 September 2019, in which it appeals to the Security Council to fulfil its responsibilities by ensuring the freedom, security and safety of navigation, ensuring the safety and stability of the region, and taking a resolute position against any activities that or attempts to threaten the safety of navigation in the region. In that connection, the Council reiterated that it is important for cooperation between Arab States and the Islamic Republic of Iran to be based on the principles of good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, refraining from the use of or threat of force and avoiding escalation, as well as taking collective action to defuse the crisis in the Arabian Gulf.

The Council reiterated its condemnation of Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, as set out in its resolution 8418, which the Council at the ministerial level adopted on 10 September 2019.

In view of the ongoing preparations to convene the first conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, the Council welcomed the designation of Jordan to serve as president of the conference, which is to be held in November 2019 in implementation of United Nations General Assembly decision 73/546. The Council reiterated that the total elimination of nuclear weapons and developing effective verification mechanisms are essential for ensuring the security and stability of the Middle East region and for promoting international peace and security, noting that the active participation of the countries of the Middle East was vital to the achieving the aspirations of the peoples of the region for peace and security. In that connection, the Council urged all concerned States, including the three depositary States of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as Israel and Iran, to participate effectively and constructively in this conference, in implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. Moreover, the Council stressed that it was important for the League of Arab States to participate in the conference. The Council called upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit a report to the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that includes the outcome of the first conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and called upon the Review Conference to support the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and to emphasize the responsibility of the depositary States and regional parties to help ensure that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction is successful and that such a zone is established.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council welcomed the draft agenda of the unofficial consultative meeting between the Security Council and the Council of the League at the permanent delegates' level, in particular the item on cooperation between the Security Council and the League. In implementation of the resolution adopted by the Council of the League, the agenda had been proposed by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, the Arab member of the Security Council, in coordination with the secretariat of the League. Moreover, the Council reaffirmed the importance of strengthening cooperation between the League and the Security Council, in implementation of the relevant ministerial resolutions and the statement that was issued on 13 June 2019 by the President of the Security Council during the presidency of Kuwait, with a view to enhancing cooperation between the Security Council and the League. The Council commended Kuwait for its efforts during its membership of the Security Council and wished Tunisia success in its membership of the Council in the period 2020–2021.