

THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIS – OFFICIAL POSITION OF STATES (JANUARY 2014-JANUARY 2017)

Olivier Corten

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United Nations Security Council

24 September 2014

‘[...] Recognizing that international cooperation and any measures taken by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism must comply fully with the Charter of the United Nations, Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter, [...]

18. Calls upon Member States to cooperate and consistently support each other’s efforts to counter violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism [...]’ (SC Resolution 2178 (2014), 24 September 2014.)

19 November 2014

‘[...] respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the United Nations Charter’ and that ‘Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with the UN Charter and all their other obligations under international law’ (Statement by the President of the Security Council, S/PRST/2014/23, 19 November 2014.)

19 December 2014

‘respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter’, appealed to the collaboration of all States and international and regional organizations to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate the terrorist threat [...]’ (SC Resolution 2195 (2014), 19 December 2014.)

See also Statement by the President of the Security Council, S/2015/10, 24 April 2015; Statement by the President of the Security Council, S/2015/15, 17 August 2015.

20 November 2015

Resolution 2249 (2015)

‘The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1368 (2001), 1373 (2001), 1618 (2005), 1624 (2005), 2083 (2012), 2129 (2013), 2133 (2014), 2161 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2214 (2015) and its relevant presidential statements,

Reaffirming the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and unity of all States in accordance with purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter,

Reaffirming that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed,

Reiterating that the situation will continue to deteriorate further in the absence of a political solution to the Syria conflict and emphasizing the need to implement the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012 endorsed as Annex II of its resolution 2118 (2013), the Joint Statement on the outcome of the multilateral talks on Syria in Vienna of 30 October 2015 and the Statement of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) of 14 November 2015,

1. Unequivocally condemns in the strongest terms the horrifying terrorist attacks perpetrated by ISIL also known as Da'esh which took place on 26 June 2015 in Sousse, on 10 October 2015 in Ankara, on 31 October 2015 over Sinai, on 12 November 2015 in Beirut and on 13 November 2015 in Paris, and all other attacks perpetrated by ISIL also known as Da'esh, including hostage-taking and killing, and notes it has the capability and intention to carry out further attacks and regards all such acts of terrorism as a threat to peace and security;

2. Expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families and to the people and Governments of Tunisia, Turkey, Russian Federation, Lebanon and France, and to all Governments whose citizens were targeted in the above-mentioned attacks and all other victims of terrorism;

3. Condemns also in the strongest terms the continued gross, systematic and widespread abuses of human rights and violations of humanitarian law, as well as barbaric acts of destruction and looting of cultural heritage carried out by ISIL also known as Da'esh;

4. Reaffirms that those responsible for committing or otherwise responsible for terrorist acts, violations of international humanitarian law or violations or abuses of human rights must be held accountable;

5. Calls upon Member States that have the capacity to do so to take all necessary measures, in compliance with international law, in particular with the United Nations Charter, as well as international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, on the territory under the control of ISIL also known as Da'esh, in Syria and Iraq, to redouble and coordinate their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts committed specifically by ISIL also known as Da'esh as well as ANF, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities associated with Al Qaeda, and other terrorist groups, as designated by the United Nations Security Council, and as may further be agreed by the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) and endorsed by the UN Security Council, pursuant to the Statement of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) of 14 November, and to eradicate the safe haven they have established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria;

6. Urges Member States to intensify their efforts to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to Iraq and Syria and to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, and urges all Member States to continue to fully implement the above- mentioned resolutions;

7. Expresses its intention to swiftly update the 1267 committee sanctions list in order to better reflect the threat posed by ISIL also known as Da'esh;

8. Decides to remain seized of the matter.'

18 December 2015

Resolution 2254 (2015)

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012), 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2175 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2235 (2015), and 2249 (2015) and Presidential Statements of 3 August 2011 (S/PRST/2011/16), 21 March 2012 (S/PRST/2012/6), 5 April 2012 (S/PRST/2012/10), 2 October 2013 (S/PRST/2013/15), 24 April 2015 (S/PRST/2015/10) and 17 August 2015 (S/PRST/2015/15),

Reaffirming its **strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations**,

1. Reconfirms its endorsement of the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012, endorses the “Vienna Statements” in pursuit of the full implementation of the Geneva Communiqué, as the basis for a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition in order to end the conflict in Syria, and stresses that the Syrian people will decide the future of Syria; ...

8. Reiterates its call in resolution 2249 (2015) for Member States to prevent and suppress terrorist acts committed specifically by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), Al-Nusra Front (ANF), and all other individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities associated with Al Qaeda or ISIL, and other terrorist groups, as designated by the Security Council, and as may further be agreed by the ISSG and determined by the Security Council, pursuant to the Statement of the ISSG of 14 November 2015, and to eradicate the safe haven they have established over significant parts of Syria, and notes that the aforementioned ceasefire will not apply to offensive or defensive actions against these individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as set forth in the 14 November 2015 ISSG Statement;

Iraq

Letter dated 25 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, S/2014/440, 25 June 2014

On 8 June 2014, with encouragement from several actors, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an entity that is included in the international list of terrorist organizations, took control of the ancient city of Mosul, the capital of Ninawa governorate. It then pushed south towards towns and villages where Iraqis had exercised their democratic right to vote.

ISIL has since been terrorizing citizens, carrying out mass executions, persecuting minorities and women, and destroying mosques, shrines and churches. This group now threatens several

governorates, including Baghdad, thanks to external support and the influx of thousands of foreign terrorists of various nationalities from across the border in Syria.

In other parts of our country, particularly the western governorate of Anbar, ISIL is carrying out organized military operations across the Syrian border and controls a number of border crossings.

The threat of ISIL is not new to us. Iraq has been subjected to terrorist attacks for nearly a decade by Al-Qaida, which has renamed itself ISIL. The situation has become more serious over the past two years, as ISIL has repeatedly launched attacks against Iraqi territory from eastern Syria. Hundreds of foreign suicide bombers have streamed into Iraq to murder its citizens in their markets, mosques, churches, playgrounds and schools.

We have previously requested the assistance of the international community. While we are grateful for what has been done to date, it has not been enough. We therefore call on the United Nations and the international community to recognize the serious threat our country and the international order are facing. These international terrorist groups seek to eliminate borders, exacerbate violence and fan the flames of civil war. On the other hand, the Iraqi Government is seeking to avoid falling into a cycle of violence. To that end, we need your support in order to defeat ISIL and protect our territory and people. In particular, we call on Member States to assist us by providing military training, advanced technology and the weapons required to respond to the situation, with a view to denying terrorists staging areas and safe havens.

We should like you to understand that the need is urgent, particularly at our western borders, which have become a staging ground and a magnet for terrorists from around the world. ...

At this critical juncture, we are facing a serious threat from international terrorist organizations. We therefore request urgent assistance from the international community. This assistance should be provided in accordance with those bilateral and multilateral agreements that were approved by the Iraqi Government through its constitutional institutions. It must also be given with full respect for the principle of national sovereignty and the Iraqi Constitution, and in accordance with Security Council resolution 1770 (2007), which gives Iraq the right to resort to the United Nations as it deems appropriate for the country, its interests and sovereignty, and in a manner that does not undermine its sovereignty.

... We also request the United Nations to consider what Iraq and other countries are going through at the hands of the gangs of ISIL and Al-Qaida as genocide. Accordingly, the international community must stand by those States, which are Members of the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2014/691, 22 September 2014

I should like to reaffirm the substance of the letter dated 25 June 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council (S/2014/440, annex), in which the international community was requested to support the effort to eradicate the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and restore stability to our country.

On 15 September 2014, at the Paris conference, the international community attested to the fact that ISIL represents a threat to Iraq. We welcome the commitment that was made by 26 States to provide the new Iraqi Government with all necessary support in its war against ISIL, including appropriate military assistance **through the provision of air cover in coordination with the Iraqi armed forces and in accordance with international law**, without endangering the safety of civilians, ensuring that populated areas are not struck and respecting Iraq's sovereignty.

Iraq is grateful for the military assistance it is receiving, including the assistance provided by the United States of America in response to Iraq's specific requests. Iraq and the United States have entered into a Strategic Framework Agreement, and that Agreement will help to make such assistance more effective and enable us to make great advances in our war against ISIL. Although Iraq is in great need of the assistance of its friends in combatting this evil terrorism, it nonetheless attaches great importance to preserving its sovereignty and its ability to take decisions independently, both of which must be honoured in all circumstances.

As we noted in our earlier letter, **ISIL has established a safe haven outside Iraq's borders that is a direct threat to the security of our people and territory. By establishing this safe haven, ISIL has secured for itself the ability to train for, plan, finance and carry out terrorist operations across our borders. The presence of this safe haven has made our borders impossible to defend and exposed our citizens to the threat of terrorist attacks.**

It is for these reasons that we, in accordance with international law and the relevant bilateral and multilateral agreements, and with due regard for complete national sovereignty and the Constitution, have requested the United States of America to lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds, with our express consent. The aim of such strikes is to end the constant threat to Iraq, protect Iraq's citizens and, ultimately, arm Iraqi forces and enable them to regain control of Iraq's borders.

We are grateful for the international community's support and believe that the provision of additional assistance for the specific purpose of targeting ISIL will further help the Iraqi people and the security forces to turn the tide in the struggle against the terrorists, and thereby restore security and stability in our territory. Doing so will benefit the region and the entire world, from which ISIL must be completely eradicated.'

Letter dated 11 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2015/963, 14 December 2015

Iraq is currently waging a war against global terrorism in order to defend itself and all the States of the world. Its army and various security forces are engaged in momentous battles against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which is in control of certain Iraqi cities. In such times, neighbouring States should preserve the security and sovereignty of Iraq and assist it in its war against terrorism.

On the evening of 3 December 2015, Turkish military forces comprising hundreds of soldiers and a number of tanks and armoured vehicles crossed the internationally recognized borders of Iraq and penetrated some 110 km into its territory. They set up camp in the Ba'shiqah region, near the city of Mosul, in northern Iraq. Those actions were taken without prior coordination or consultation with the federal Government of

Iraq and are therefore in flagrant violation of the provisions and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They also violate the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Iraqi State, which are guaranteed by the provisions of the Charter, the principles of international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions, which reaffirm the independence, sovereignty and territorial unity and integrity of Iraq.

The entry of Turkish forces, including heavy combat equipment and a large number of troops, deep into Iraq territory is an **act of provocation and violates international law. Those military movements are an act of aggression under the Charter and the relevant provisions of international law.**

Iraq believes that **disputes should be resolved through dialogue** and is highly desirous of preserving good-neighbourly relations and mutual respect with Turkey. It has therefore attempted to control the situation through diplomatic means and bilateral discussions. However, those efforts have failed to persuade Turkey to withdraw its forces, which are occupying Iraqi territory.

Iraq calls on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility to maintain international peace and security under the Charter by protecting Iraq and preserving its security, sovereignty and territorial unity and integrity, which Turkish forces violated when they entered Iraqi territory without the knowledge or approval of the federal Government of Iraq. We call on the Security Council to order Turkey to withdraw its forces immediately and to ensure, by all available means, that those forces retreat immediately and unconditionally to the internationally recognized border of the two countries. The Council should also order Turkey not to repeat such violations of the sovereignty of Iraq, as they are harmful to international relations and pose a great threat to regional and international security.

We should like to inform you that, in accordance with the Charter and international law, Iraq reserves the right to defend itself and take all measures required to put an end to this act of aggression and halt Turkish transgressions in Iraqi territory, because such actions undermine good-neighbourly relations and threaten international security and peace.

18 December 2015

... on 3 December Turkish forces, estimated at hundreds of soldiers with a number of armoured vehicles, tanks and artilleries, penetrated northern Iraq to the depth of 110 kilometres without the official permission of the Iraqi federal authorities. **This constitutes a serious violation of Iraqi sovereignty and the principles of international law relating to good-neighbourly relations, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States, in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations.**

The arguments presented to the media by Turkish officials to justify their violation of the borders of a sovereign neighbouring State are unacceptable to Iraq. Such military movements constitute a hostile act under established international rules and norms. Iraq rejects any military movements of a counter-terrorist nature without the knowledge and prior approval of the Iraqi federal authorities

Counter-terrorism operations **within the framework of the international coalition must be made with the knowledge of the Iraqi federal Government and after consultations with the Iraqi armed forces**, and in full respect for the provisions of the Iraqi Constitution and the

will and inclusivity of the elected national Government.

The Turkish delegation agreed in principle to withdraw, but asked for time to declare the withdrawal after its return to Ankara. We were surprised that the delegation refused to withdraw those troops so as to end this serious violation of Iraqi sovereignty and security, which represents a flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions. As Iraq is committed to the framework of international legitimacy represented by the Security Council, which has a unique responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security, Iraq requests the Council to assume its international legal responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and to adopt a clear and explicit resolution with the following provisions.

First, it must condemn the Turkish occupation and the illegal incursion against the will of a founding State Member of the United Nations — the State of Iraq — in breach of the rules and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. Secondly, it must demand that Turkey withdraw its troops immediately and ensure, by all available means and measures, their immediate and unconditional withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders between the two countries. It must also ensure the non-recurrence of such unilateral actions, which undermine international relations, exacerbate sectarian and nationalist tensions in the region, and expose regional and international security to significant risks.

We entrust the security, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq to the Council, which has stressed, in all of its resolutions, **the inherent right of Member States, including Iraq, to individual or collective self-defence, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, should it be subject to armed attack. Iraq will take all necessary measures to end such hostile acts, which are an affront to good-neighbourly relations and threaten international peace and security.** (S/PV.7589, 18 December 2015, 3-4).

Annex to the identical letters dated 17 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2016/870, 19 October 2016

On 3 December 2015, Turkish military forces comprising hundreds of soldiers and a number of tanks and armoured vehicles crossed the internationally recognized borders of Iraq and penetrated some 110 km into its territory. They set up camp in the Ba‘shiqah region, near the city of Mosul, in northern Iraq. **Those military movements were executed without prior consultation and coordination with the federal Government of Iraq and are therefore an act of aggression under the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of international law.**

24 December 2015 in Cairo, adopted resolution No. 7987. In that resolution, the Council of the League condemns the Turkish Government for the incursion of its forces into Iraqi territory; considers the incursion to be a violation of the sovereignty of Iraq and a threat to Arab national security; and demands that the Turkish Government immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces from Iraqi territory. The Council of the League reaffirmed that position in its resolution No. 653, which it adopted at its twenty-seventh ordinary session at the summit level on 25 July 2016 in Nouakchott. Unfortunately, the Turkish Government has not complied with either of those resolutions. ...

Turkey has claimed that Iraq has harboured members of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). Those claims are not true. On 21 March 2013, Turkey signed a so-called peace agreement with Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of PKK. One of the paragraphs of that agreement provides that the armed members of that group would move into Iraqi territory. When that agreement was signed, Iraq condemned that paragraph and considered it to be an infringement of its sovereignty and a threat to security and peace in Iraq and the region. It also sent a letter of protest on 16 May 2013 to the League of Arab States and the United Nations. Yet, now, Turkey justifies its presence in northern Iraq by stating that it is pursuing the very same PKK that, in 2013, it demanded should withdraw to Iraq under the terms of the above-mentioned peace agreement.

Iraq is now engaged in a momentous battle to liberate Mosul from the clutches of the terrorist entity ISIL. Owing to tactical considerations related to the rules of engagement that the various Iraqi forces tasked with liberating Mosul will follow, and given that the Turkish forces are situated near the battle lines with the forces of the terrorist organization **ISIL in the absence of a request from the Iraqi Government or its authorization, those forces will be treated as being non-friendly forces and, when absolutely necessary, will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, Article 51, which provides that States have the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations. The Security Council will be notified immediately of any measures taken in exercise of the right of self-defence set out in Article 51.**

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate my Government's call on the Security Council to fulfil its role and ensure, by all available means, that the Turkish forces retreat immediately and unconditionally to the internationally recognized border of the two countries.

U.S.A.

Letter dated 23 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, S/2014/695, 23 September 2014

'In the letter dated 20 September 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/691, annex) and other statements made by Iraq, including the letter dated 25 June 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2014/440, annex), Iraq has made clear that it is facing a serious threat of continuing attacks from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) coming out of safe havens in Syria. These safe havens are used by ISIL for training, planning, financing, and carrying out attacks across Iraqi borders and against Iraq's people. For these reasons, the Government of **Iraq has asked that the United States lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds in Syria** in order to end the continuing attacks on Iraq, to protect Iraqi citizens, and ultimately to enable and arm Iraqi forces to perform their task of regaining control of the Iraqi borders.

ISIL and other terrorist groups in Syria are a **threat not only to Iraq, but also to many other countries, including the United States** and our partners in the region and beyond. **States must be able to defend themselves, in accordance with the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence, as reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, when, as is the case here, the government of the State where the threat is**

located is unwilling or unable to prevent the use of its territory for such attacks. The Syrian regime has shown that it cannot and will not confront these safe havens effectively itself. Accordingly, the United States has initiated necessary and proportionate military actions in Syria in order to eliminate the ongoing ISIL threat to Iraq, including by protecting Iraqi citizens from further attacks and by enabling Iraqi forces to regain control of Iraq's borders. In addition, the United States has initiated military actions in Syria against al-Qaida elements in Syria known as the Khorasan Group to address terrorist threats that they pose to the United States and our partners and allies.'

20 November 2015

For that reason, **we welcome and applaud resolution 2249 (2015)** for its resolute call on States to take all necessary measures in compliance with international law to counter ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front. We must also choke off funding, arms, recruitment and other kinds of support to ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front. As the resolution recognizes, **Iraq has made clear that it is facing a serious threat of continuing attacks from ISIL**, in particular coming from safe havens in Syria. **The Al-Assad regime in Syria has shown that it cannot and will not suppress that threat**, even as it undertakes actions that benefit recruitment by extremists.

In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and its recognition of the inherent right to individual and collective self-defence, we are taking necessary and proportionate military action to deny ISIL safe haven. The United States, along with 64 other nations and international organizations, has formed Global Coalition to Counter ISIL whose central aim is to degrade ISIL's capabilities and achieve its lasting defeat. (S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 4)

UK

Summary of the government legal position on military action in Iraq against ISIL, 25 September 2014

International law is clear that the use of force in international relations is prohibited, subject to limited exceptions.

However, international law is equally clear that this prohibition does not apply to the use of military force by one State on the territory of another if the territorial State so requests or consents.

It is clear in this case that Iraq has consented to the use of military force to defend itself against ISIL in Iraq. ...

By [a letter dated 20 September 2014](#) to the President of the UN Security Council the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq sought additional international support and assistance for the specific purpose of fighting ISIL. ...

The government is satisfied that the consent of Iraq in these terms provides a clear and unequivocal legal basis for the deployment of UK forces and military assets to take military action to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds in Iraq.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/military-action-in-iraq-against-isil-government-legal-position/summary-of-the-government-legal-position-on-military-action-in-iraq-against-isil>

Identical letters dated 25 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2014/851, 26 November 2014

'I am writing in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations to report to the Security Council that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is taking measures in support of the **collective self-defence of Iraq** as part of international efforts led by the United States.

These measures are in response to the request by the Government of Iraq for assistance in confronting the attack by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on Iraq, contained in its letter to the President of the Security Council of 20 September 2014 (S/2014/691). The United Kingdom fully supports these international efforts, whose purpose is to end the continuing attack on Iraq, to protect Iraqi citizens and to enable Iraqi forces to regain control of the borders of Iraq **by striking ISIL sites and military strongholds in Syria**, as necessary and proportionate measures.'

Letter dated 7 September 2015 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, S/2015/688, 7 September 2015

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and further to our letter of 25 November 2014 (S/2014/851), I am writing to report to the Security Council that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has undertaken military action in Syria against the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in exercise of the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence.

On 21 August 2015, armed forces of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out **a precision air strike against an ISIL vehicle in which a target known to be actively engaged in planning and directing imminent armed attacks against the United Kingdom was travelling**. This air strike was a necessary and proportionate exercise of the individual right of self-defence of the United Kingdom.

As reported in our letter of 25 November 2014, ISIL is engaged in an ongoing armed attack against Iraq, and therefore action against ISIL in Syria is lawful in the collective self-defence of Iraq.

20 November 2015

As my Security Council colleagues have said, **this resolution is a powerful international recognition of the threat ISIL poses. It calls for lawful action and all necessary measures to counter ISIL.**

Like others, the United Kingdom has already taken action against ISIL on the basis of individual and collective self-defence, as we have set out to the Council. S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 7

Letter dated 3 December 2015 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, S/2015/928, 3 December 2015

In its resolution 2249 (2015), the Security Council recognized that the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Daesh, constitutes a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security. In this respect, the Council noted the letters of the Iraqi authorities stating that ISIL/Daesh is a direct threat to the security of the Iraqi people and territory. Furthermore, the Council condemned horrifying terrorist attacks perpetrated by ISIL/Daesh, including in Sousse, Ankara, Beirut and Paris and over the Sinai, and noted that ISIL/Daesh has the capability and intention to carry out further attacks. ISIL/Daesh members are known to be actively engaged in planning and directing attacks against the United Kingdom from Syria.

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and further to our letters of 25 November 2014 (S/2014/851) and 7 September 2015 (S/2015/688), I am therefore writing to report to the Security Council that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is taking necessary and proportionate measures against ISIL/Daesh in Syria, as called for by the Council in resolution 2249 (2015), in exercise of the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence.

Canada

6 October 2014

‘the democratically elected government of Iraq has asked the world for assistance and has asked Canada to participate. This initiative has obviously been before the United Nations Security Council, where the Prime Minister showed great leadership by speaking, as I did at a previous Security Council meeting, in the last two weeks. It obviously has the blessing of both the UN Security Council and the government of Iraq. **We do not have any legal authorization in Syria.** As despicable as the political leadership is in Syria, and with respect to the motion before Parliament, **we obviously do not have any legal basis at this stage for that effort.**’ (Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, “Government orders – Military Contribution Against ISIL”, in *House of Commons Debates*, 41th Legislature, 2nd session, n° 123, site Parliament of Canada, 6 October 2014, <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=2&DocId=6717243&Language=E>, 1225).

Letter dated 31 March 2015 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2015/221, 31 March 2015

I am writing to report to the Security Council that **Canada is taking necessary and proportionate measures in Syria in support of the collective self-defence of Iraq, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.**

On June 25 and September 20, 2014, Iraq wrote to the Security Council, making clear that it was facing a serious **threat of continuing attacks from Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) emanating from safe havens in Syria.** This threat persists and the attacks by ISIL from safe havens in Syria continue. The Government of Iraq asked the United States to

lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds in Syria in order to end the continuing attacks on Iraq, to protect Iraqi citizens, and ultimately to enable Iraqi forces to regain control of Iraq's borders. The efforts of the international coalition have succeeded in degrading ISIL's capabilities and restricting ISIL's operations, but much more remains to be done.

ISIL also continues to pose a threat not only to Iraq, but also to Canada and Canadians, as well as to other countries in the region and beyond. In accordance with the inherent rights of individual and collective self-defence reflected in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, States must be able to act in self-defence when the Government of the State where a threat is located is unwilling or unable to prevent attacks emanating from its territory.

Canada's military actions against ISIL in Syria are aimed at further degrading ISIL's ability to carry out attacks. **These military actions are not aimed at Syria or the Syrian people, nor do they entail support for the Syrian regime.**

Australia

16 September 2014

FRAN KELLY:

The statement signed by the countries in Paris say the action will be, quote, "in accordance with international law to be implemented and followed up in the framework of the UN." You are going to be attending the UN Security Council next week, will there or **must there be some kind of Security Council resolution to further underpin the Iraq action and more importantly action inside of Syria?**

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, certainly the Iraqi government is more than able, at law, to invite other countries to support its operations and that is what Australia has in mind to do. We have dispatched a force to the UAE. This force will be available for combat operations inside Iraq should further decisions be made by Government and that **is perfectly legal to operate in Iraq with the support, the consent, the approval, the welcome of the Iraqi government is perfectly, perfectly legal under international law.**

FRAN KELLY:

What about Syria? To go into Syria, and let's be frank, without being able to follow and attack Islamic State inside Syria they really become an untouchable force because they can just retreat across a border at any time. This has to be an element of any successful assault on IS doesn't it and do you need UN approval for that?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, Fran, first of all, please, I don't think it helps to use that term 'Islamic State' because this death cult is neither Islamic nor a state. It has ambitions to create a terrorist state but it won't be a state in any normal sense.

FRAN KELLY:

Ok, let's call them ISIS then for this discussion but to really degrade and destroy ISIS which is the mission as you have stated it, it really needs, any force really needs to be able to go inside Syria where they operate from. Do you agree with that? And to do that do you need UN approval?

PRIME MINISTER:

President Obama has certainly indicated that US forces will strike ISIL inside Syria if needs be. That is not Australia's intention at this time. I don't rule it out but it is not our

intention at this time because as you rightly say the legalities of operating inside Syria which is ungoverned space with a regime we don't actually recognise, the legalities of operating inside Syria are quite different from the legalities of operating inside Iraq at the request and in support of the Iraqi government.

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-09-16/interview-fran-kelly-abc-radio-national>

26 September Islamic State: PM Tony Abbott says Government to decide in coming days on order to join Iraq air strikes

"Morally there's little difference between IS, this death cult on one side of the border to the other because it's a border that IS doesn't recognise," he said.

"But legally the Australian Government must be conscious of these things because we are a law-abiding country, legally there's a world of difference between operating inside Iraq in support and at the request of the Iraqi government and operating in Syria which is largely ungoverned space with a regime that Australia doesn't actually recognise."

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said it was increasingly unlikely that Australia would be involved in air strikes in Syria, given the growing size of the international coalition willing to launch attacks on Islamic State militants.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-26/government-to-decide-in-coming-days-on-joining-iraq-strikes/5770874>

21 August 2015

Prime Minister Tony Abbott has strongly hinted Australia will join the United States in carrying out air strikes against Islamic State (IS) in Syria.

"While there is a little difference between the legalities of air strikes on either side of the border, there's no difference in the morality," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-21/islamic-state-tony-abbott-hints-air-strikes-syria/6713720>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/15/tony-abbott-spells-out-objectives-of-military-involvement-against-isis>

The Abbott government confirmed on Wednesday that it plans to extend airstrikes into Syria against Islamic State targets. The national security committee met on Tuesday to approve a plan to conduct the aerial operations.

The attorney general, George Brandis, has made assurances the airstrikes would be legal because Isis "conducts aggressive attacks on Iraq from bases within Syria ... and we are at war with Isil on behalf of the people and constitutional government of Iraq". (Isil is Brandis's preferred term for Islamic State.)

<http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/sep/09/is-it-legal-for-australia-to-bomb-syria-five-facts-you-need-to-know>

23 August 2015

The Government has until now said the legal situation was stopping it from joining the United States-led air campaign over the war-torn territory.

But Ms Bishop said the US had laid out the "legal basis" for bombing Islamic State (IS) targets in Syria in a letter to the United Nations "some time ago".

"The [international] coalition had been invited into Iraq at the invitation and with the consent of the Iraqi Government," she said.

"And under the principle of collective self-defence of Iraq and its people, the coalition have extended that self-defence into Syria **because the border between Syria and Iraq is no longer governed.**"

However Ms Bishop said the Government would "certainly" take its own legal advice before committing to joining the airstrikes.

"They believe that there's a perfect legal entitlement for airstrikes into Syria," he said.

"The legalities are a little different.

"We're obviously operating at the request of the Iraqi Government in Iraq."

Mr Abbott also condemned what he called the "boastful evil" of IS.

"You go back to the dreadful things that were done in Pol Pot's Cambodia or in Hitler's Germany," he said.

"At least they were embarrassed enough about the evil they did to try to hide it.

"This Daesh death cult publishes its atrocities on the internet every day."

Last week, the Government confirmed the US had formally asked it to join the Syrian campaign.

On Friday, Mr Abbott gave a strong indication he was prepared to join, saying "**when they [IS] don't respect the border [between Syria and Iraq], why should we?**"

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-23/more-signs-government-will-send-war-planes-to-syria/6718460>

Prime minister Tony Abbott has confirmed Australia will extend its involvement in Syria, as part of a continued mission to destroy IS.

"Do we want Assad gone? Of course we do. Do our military operations contribute to that at this time? No, they don't... the Assad regime is not the kind of government that we could ever support".

The government's legal basis for this operation comes under Article 51 of the UN charter which recognises all member states have an inherent right of individual and collective self-defence against armed attack.

<http://www.businessinsider.com.au/australias-military-involvement-in-syria-is-a-war-of-self-defence-not-a-plan-to-topple-the-assad-regime-2015-9>

Letter dated 9 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2015/693, 9 September 2015

I am writing, **in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, to report to the Security Council that Australia is taking measures against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Syria in support of the collective self-defence of Iraq as part of international efforts led by the United States.**

On 20 September 2014, the Government of Iraq wrote to inform the Security Council that ISIL had established safe havens outside Iraq's borders in Syria and that ISIL attacks emanating from these positions posed a direct threat to the security of the Iraqi people and

territory (see S/2014/691, annex). The Government of Iraq requested that the United States lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds in Syria in order to end the constant attacks on Iraq, to protect Iraqi citizens and, ultimately, to enable Iraqi forces to regain control of Iraq's borders.

This threat to Iraq, its territorial integrity and its citizens persists. Attacks by ISIL in Iraq from safe havens in Syria continue.

Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations recognizes the inherent right of States to act in individual or collective self-defence **where an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations. States must be able to act in self-defence when the Government of the State where the threat is located is unwilling or unable to prevent attacks originating from its territory. The Government of Syria has, by its failure to constrain attacks upon Iraqi territory originating from ISIL bases within Syria, demonstrated that it is unwilling or unable to prevent those attacks.**

In response to the request for assistance by the Government of Iraq, Australia is therefore undertaking necessary and proportionate military operations against ISIL in Syria in the exercise of the collective self-defence of Iraq.

These operations **are not directed against Syria** or the Syrian people, nor do they entail support for the Syrian regime. When undertaking such military operations, Australia will abide by its obligations under international law.

France

Identical letters dated 8 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2015/745, 9 September 2015

By resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015) in particular, the Security Council has described the terrorist acts of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), including abuses committed against the civilian populations of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, as a threat to international peace and security. Those acts are also a direct and extraordinary threat to the security of France.

In a letter dated 20 September 2014 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/691), the Iraqi authorities requested the assistance of the international community in order to counter the attacks perpetrated by ISIL.

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, France has taken actions involving the participation of military aircraft in response to attacks carried out by ISIL from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

16 November 2015

Discours du président de la République devant le Parlement réuni en Congrès

La France est en guerre. Les actes commis vendredi soir à Paris et près du Stade de France, sont des actes de guerre. Ils ont fait au moins 129 morts et de nombreux blessés. Ils

constituent une agression contre notre pays, contre ses valeurs, contre sa jeunesse, contre son mode de vie. <http://www.elysee.fr/declarations/article/discours-du-president-de-la-republique-devant-le-parlement-reuni-en-congres-3/>

20 November 2015

On 13 November, **Daesh committed an act of war** against France. ...

As a founding Member of the United Nations, France is deeply committed to the raison d'être of our Organization. The United Nations represents the primacy of law and collective security. It is therefore to the Security Council that the President of the Republic has naturally turned to organize and mobilize our international action.

In adopting resolution 2249 (2015), the members of the Security Council have acted unanimously to live up to their responsibilities. The resolution we have just adopted recognizes the exceptional nature of the threat posed by Daesh. It calls on all Member States to take all necessary measures to eradicate the sanctuary that Daesh has created in Syria and Iraq, and to thwart its radical ideology. **The resolution frames our action within the framework of international law and in respect for the Charter of the United Nations**, which is our common good — indeed, I would say our common treasure. It also offers the guarantee of an effective fight against transnational terrorism.

As I said, **the events of 13 November were an armed aggression against France. Our military action, of which we informed the Security Council from the outset and which was justified as legitimate collective self-defence, can now also be characterized as individual self-defence, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.** (S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 2)

Germany

Letter dated 10 December 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2015/946, 10 December 2015

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, I report to the Security Council on behalf of my Government that the Federal Republic of Germany, in the exercise of the right of collective self-defence, has initiated military measures against the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). These measures are directed against ISIL, not against the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Security Council has confirmed in its resolution 2249 (2015) of 20 November 2015 that ISIL “constitutes a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security” and has called upon Member States to eradicate the safe haven that ISIL has established in significant parts of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. ISIL has carried out, and continues to carry out, armed attacks against Iraq, France, and other States. These States have acted, and continue to act, by taking measures of self-defence.

ISIL has occupied a certain part of Syrian territory over which the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic does not at this time exercise effective control. States that have been subjected to armed attack by ISIL originating in this part of Syrian territory, are therefore justified under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations to take

necessary measures of self-defence, even without the consent of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. Exercising the right of collective self-defence, Germany will now support the military measures of those States that have been subjected to attacks by ISIL.

Denmark

Letter dated 11 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2016/34, 13 January 2016

I am writing **in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations** to report to the Security Council that the Kingdom of Denmark, as called for by the Council in its resolution 2249 (2015) and **in response to the request by the Government of Iraq, is taking necessary and proportionate measures against the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) in Syria in exercise of the inherent right of collective self-defence as part of international efforts led by the United States of America.**

The Security Council recognized in its resolution 2249 (2015) that ISIL constitutes a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security. In this respect, the **Council noted the letters dated 25 June 2014 and 20 September 2014 from the Government of Iraq stating that ISIL has established a safe haven outside Iraq's borders that is a direct threat to the security of the Iraqi people and territory.** Furthermore, the Council condemned the horrifying terrorist attacks perpetrated by ISIL including in Sousse, Ankara, Beirut and Paris and over Sinai, and noted that ISIL has the capability and intention to carry out further attacks.

The Security Council called upon Member States to prevent and suppress terrorist acts committed by ISIL and to eradicate the safe haven ISIL has established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria. In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Kingdom of Denmark is taking measures against ISIL in support of this call.

Netherlands

Letter dated 10 February 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2016/132, 10 February 2016

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, I am writing to report to the Security Council that the Kingdom of the Netherlands is taking necessary and proportionate measures against the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) in Syria in the exercise of the inherent right of **collective self-defence of Iraq.**

In its resolution 2249 (2015), the Security Council recognized that ISIL/Da'esh constitutes a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security. It called upon Member States to prevent and suppress terrorist acts committed by ISIL and to eradicate the safe haven that ISIL has established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria. The Council reiterated this call in resolution 2254 (2015). In this respect, the Council noted in resolution 2249 (2015) the

letters from the Iraqi authorities stating that ISIL/Da'esh has established a safe haven outside Iraq's borders that is a direct threat to the security of the Iraqi people and territory, and requesting the United States of America to take the lead in efforts to defend Iraq.

Pursuant to this request, the Kingdom of the Netherlands is taking measures against ISIL/Da'esh in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Norway

Letter dated 3 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2016/513, 3 June 2016

I am writing in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations to **report to the Security Council that the Government of Norway is taking necessary and proportionate measures against the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) in Syria in the exercise of the right of collective self-defence.**

The Security Council recognized in its resolution 2249 (2015) that ISIL constituted a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security and called upon Member States to prevent and suppress terrorist acts committed by ISIL and to eradicate the safe haven that ISIL had established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria. The Council reiterated that call in its resolution 2254 (2015). In that respect, the Council noted the **letters dated 25 June 2014 (S/2014/440) and 20 September 2014 (S/2014/691) from the Iraqi authorities stating that ISIL had established a safe haven outside Iraqi borders in Syria that was a direct threat to the security of the Iraqi people and territory.** The Government of Iraq requested the United States to lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds.

Pursuant to that request, the Government of Norway is taking measures against ISIL in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The measures are directed against ISIL, not against the Arab Republic of Syria.

I kindly request that you circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

Belgium

Letter dated 7 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2016/523, 9 June 2016

On behalf of my Government, I am writing the present letter to report to the Security Council that, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Kingdom of Belgium is taking necessary and proportionate measures against the terrorist organization "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) in Syria in the exercise of the right of collective self-defence, **in response to the request from the Government of Iraq.**

The Security Council determined in its resolution 2249 (2015) of 20 November 2015 that ISIL constituted a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security and it called upon Member States to eradicate the safe haven that ISIL had established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria. In that respect, the Security Council noted the letters dated

25 June 2014 (S/2014/440) and 20 September 2014 (S/2014/691) from the Government of Iraq stating that ISIL had established a safe haven outside of the borders of Iraq that was a direct threat to the security of the Iraqi people and territory.

ISIL has occupied a certain part of Syrian territory over which the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic does not, at this time, exercise effective control. In the light of this exceptional situation, States that have been subjected to armed attack by ISIL originating in that part of the Syrian territory are therefore justified under Article 51 of the Charter to take necessary measures of self-defence. Exercising the right of collective self-defence, Belgium will support the military measures of those States that have been subjected to attacks by ISIL. Those measures are directed against the so-called “Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant” and not against the Syrian Arab Republic.

European Union

Mutual defence clause (article 42(7) TEU)

Defence ministers discussed the reaction to the Paris attacks of 13 November 2015. French President François Hollande had invoked article 42(7) of the Treaty on European Union, requesting bilateral aid and assistance from the other EU member states. Ministers expressed their unanimous and full support for France and their readiness to provide all the necessary aid and assistance. In the coming days France will have bilateral discussions with other member states.

As pointed out by High Representative, offers of material assistance or of support in theatres of operation where France is engaged may be made. No formal decision or conclusion by the Council will be required to implement article 42(7). The High Representative underlined that this is not a CSDP operation, but an activation of bilateral aid and assistance.

Article 42(7) reads as follows: "**If a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory, the other Member States shall have towards it an obligation of aid and assistance by all the means in their power, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.** This shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States."

Council of the EU, OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, 3426th Council meeting, Foreign Affairs, Brussels, 16 and 17 November 2015, 14120/15

Turkey

Identical letters dated 22 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2015/127, 23 February 2015

Facing an **imminent threat** from the terrorist organization Deash, the Turkish armed forces conducted a military operation for the relocation of the Süleyman Şah Memorial Outpost, a 10-acre area of land of Turkish territory inside Syria.

During the operation, which started on 21 February 2015 at 1900 hours and ended on 22 February 2015 at 0400 hours, the Süleyman Şah Memorial Outpost was temporarily relocated to Eshme within Syria, adjacent to the Turkish-Syrian border without prejudice to its legal

status and will be redeployed to its original location following a political solution to the Syrian crisis.

As mentioned in my letter dated 31 March 2014 and numbered 2014/14136816-TURKUNO DT/4474978, Turkish sovereignty over the enclave was established by the Treaty of Ankara, signed between Turkey and France on 20 October 1921. The Treaty was later reconfirmed by the signatories on 29 May 1937, by the Border Protocol signed between Turkey and Syria on 5 August 1956, by the exchange of letters between Turkey and Syria on 17 December 1973 and by various project documents related to the maintenance of the Süleyman Şah Memorial Outpost over the years. The Syrian regime committed itself to this acquis on various occasions, most recently through its note verbale of 29 September 2012.

Turkey respects the territorial integrity of Syria and is committed to protect its rights and interests emanating from international law and to exercise its right of self-defence stipulated in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Letter dated 24 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2015/563, 24 July 2015

Today, the death toll is considered to be well above 300,000. Half of the Syrian population is displaced internally and internationally. We bear the brunt, as almost 10 per cent of Syrians are now living in Turkey.

With the emergence of Daesh, the threats from Syria gained new dimensions. Syria has become a safe haven for Daesh. This area is used by Daesh for training, planning, financing and carrying out attacks across borders. Also, **Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) have underscored the threat posed by Daesh and the resolve of the international community to combat Daesh.**

The terrorist attack that took the lives of 32 Turkish citizens in Suruç on 20 July 2015 reaffirms that **Turkey is under a clear and imminent threat of continuing attack from Daesh. Most recently, on 23 July 2015, Daesh attacked the border military post in Elbeyli and killed a Turkish soldier.**

It is apparent that the regime in Syria is **neither capable of nor willing** to prevent these **threats** emanating from its territory, which clearly imperil the security of Turkey and the safety of its nationals.

Individual and collective self-defence is our inherent right under international law, as reflected in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

On this basis, Turkey has initiated necessary and proportionate military actions against Daesh in Syria, including in coordination with individual members of the Global Coalition, in order to counter the terrorist threat and to safeguard its territory and citizens.

18 December 2015

The inviolability of borders, the preservation of territorial integrity and the political unity of States are the main principles of Turkey's foreign policy. Because we are extremely sensitive

in matters concerning our own sovereignty and territorial integrity, we treat others the way we want to be treated. Those principles apply to Iraq more than to any country. ...

Turkey has extended military assistance to Iraq since the beginning of the Daesh occupation of Mosul. ... Unfortunately, that issue has been taken out of context and the number of troops that was dispatched exaggerated. Taking into consideration the Iraqi side's concerns, Turkey immediately took steps to de-escalate the matter. In that regard, we immediately stopped all further reinforcements in Bashiqa. ... On 11 December, as a result of the meetings of our envoys and taking into consideration the concerns of the Iraqi Government voiced in those meetings, a statement was issued by the Prime Minister's office. In that statement, we announced Turkey's readiness to adjust the number of our military personnel in Bashiqa. After that statement's release, we immediately began rearranging the number of troops in Bashiqa.

From the outset, we tried to resolve that matter through bilateral channels, because bringing the issue to various international platforms would serve no other purpose than to undermine the solidarity of the international community against Daesh. ...

Will the Iraqi armed forces be able to prevent attacks against our trainers in Bashiqa after we have relocated the security detachment there? As we prepared for this meeting, Turkish troops, which the Iraqi Government claims have violated the sovereignty of Iraq by their presence in Bashiqa, were actually defending it against a terrorist organization in retaliation to the attacks it launched. Our units in the camp destroyed approximately a dozen artillery positions, command posts, observation posts and approximately 40 vehicles that were at the disposal of Daesh. Does the Iraqi Government want us to halt such actions and leave?

We have been calling on the Iraqi Government to stop the activities of the PKK. Each time, the response we have received has been that the Iraqi Government had no control over that part of the country. If the Iraqi Government claims that it has full sovereignty over all its territory, then it is our right to expect that it will prevent the use of Iraqi soil for terrorist attacks against our own territory. **However, both Daesh and the PKK continue to pose significant threats to Turkey's safety and security from areas beyond the reach of the Iraqi Government, and it is our right to exercise self-defence.**

We have said it before, we will say it again, and we will keep repeating it until we put an end to all the baseless allegations — Turkey has never had and will never have any interest in violating Iraq's sovereignty, nor do we, unlike others, have any plans or ambitions for Iraqi territory. ... Let us defeat Daesh. Turkey will continue to combat Daesh as a national and global security threat, in cooperation and coordination with all its partners in this fight. (S/PV.7589, 18 December 2015, 4-6).

Identical letters dated 28 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2016/912, 1 November 2016

Turkey respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and has spared no effort to uphold these principles both on the ground and in international forums.

Since the rise of DEASH terror in Iraq, Turkey has stood by the Iraqi people and supported the Iraqi Government and acted with the international community to fight against this threat.

...

On the other side, the terrorist organization PKK, operating in both Syria and Iraq for decades, under different forms and acronyms, has been posing a serious threat to the national security of Turkey. **Successive Iraqi Governments' inability and unwillingness to remove such a direct threat to their neighbour** from their territory has led to the expansion of this threat to the Nineveh and Kirkuk governorates of Iraq.

Qatar

Letter dated 12 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2015/332, 14 May 2015

On instructions from my Government and in view of the baseless allegations and accusations that the mission of the Syrian regime has continuously made against Qatar since the start of the revolution in Syria, I wish to reiterate my country's position that no heed should be paid to that regime's attempts to accuse States that, **in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, are standing with the Syrian people in support of its legitimate demands.**

In conclusion, Qatar reiterates its steadfast support for the Syrian people and affirms that it will spare no effort to end their suffering by all legal means and ensure that they are heard by the Security Council and the international community.

Letter dated 3 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2016/111, 5 February 2016

If it wishes to restrain that regime and prevent it from committing new crimes, the Council has a responsibility to take a determined stand against a regime that is continuing to kill its own people. The Council must implement its resolutions on the situation in Syria.

Qatar reiterates its support for the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for freedom, dignity and **self-determination**, in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Identical letters dated 26 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2016/491, 2 June 2016

The State of Qatar categorically rejects all the allegations contained in the letters of the Representative of the Syrian regime and should like to reiterate the following:

The State of Qatar's efforts to resolve the crisis in Syria are animated by its commitment to upholding the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments that support the **right of peoples to self-determination** and a life of dignity, and protect human rights, while preserving Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Qatar's efforts are also animated by its categorical rejection of crimes against humanity, war crimes and other grave violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and are based on the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant resolutions of the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and various United Nations bodies, and international law.

League of Arab States

« **24th Arab Summit Issues Doha Declaration** », 26 March 2013 (<http://arableaguesummit2013.qatarconferences.org/news/news-details-17.html>).

The declaration condemned in the strongest terms the dangerous military escalation by the regime forces in Syria against the Syrian people, and the persistence of violence and mass murder by the regime against the civilian population in most Syrian territory. ...

It emphasized the importance of efforts being taken in order to reach a political solution as a priority for the Syrian crisis, while stressing on the **right of each member state, in accordance with its wish, to provide all means of self-defense, including military support to back the steadfastness of the Syrian people and the free army.**

Letter dated 7 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2016/16, 11 January 2016.

[...] copy of resolution No. 7987 adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States, held on 24 December 2015, and entitled “Unified Arab position on the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq” (see annex).

Unified Arab position on the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq

The Council of the League of Arab States, meeting at the ministerial level in extraordinary session on 24 December 2015 at the headquarters of the League Secretariat in Cairo under the Chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates,

Acting in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and in compliance with the Charter of the League of Arab States, which provides for the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member States and non-intervention in their internal affairs,

Pursuant to resolutions of the League Council at the summit level on preserving the security of the Arab States, which constitute the basic guarantee of Arab security,

With a view to protecting Arab security and the territorial sovereignty of the Arab States against any kind of intervention or threat thereof, which would constitute an intervention in their affairs and a violation of their territorial sovereignty and integrity,

Reaffirming that the building of constructive and productive relations between the Arab world and the surrounding region should be based on respect for national sovereignty and non-intervention in internal affairs,

Having considered:

The note of the Secretariat,

The note of the Republic of Iraq dated 21 December 2015,

And having heard the statements of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the heads of delegation,

Decides

1. To express its **condemnation of the Turkish Government for its forces' incursion into Iraqi territory, which is a violation of Iraqi sovereignty** and a threat to Arab security;
2. To demand that the Turkish Government immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces from Iraqi territory;

3. To **support the Iraqi Government in any measures it may take in accordance with the relevant principles of international law to ensure that the Turkish Government withdraws its forces from Iraqi territory**;
 4. To demand that the Turkish Government refrain from violating Iraqi sovereignty in the future under any pretext whatsoever;
 5. To request the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to transmit the Council's resolution on this matter formally to the President of the United Nations Security Council;
 6. To request the Arab member of the United Nations Security Council to press for the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Iraqi territory, and for all necessary measures to be taken until such time as they have fully done so.
- Resolution 7987, extraordinary session, 24 December 2015.

Syria

September 2014

‘Any action of any type without the approval of the Syrian government is aggression against Syria. ... There must be cooperation with Syria and coordination with Syria and there must be a Syrian approval of any action whether it is military or not.’ (JUFIL, 135)

« We therefore reaffirm that any international counter-terrorism effort must be based on **full respect for the Charter and the provisions and principles of international law, in particular those upholding the sovereignty of States. Accordingly, there is a need to coordinate upstream with the Syrian Government in the framework of any credible efforts to combat terrorism.**” S/PV.7271, 19 September 2014, 43

November 2014

Others, including sponsors of international terrorism, **have established an alliance outside the framework of the United Nations and without a Security Council mandate in order to carry out air strikes against ISIL in Syria and Iraq. In spite of appeals by the Syrian Government for cooperation and coordination in order to achieve the common objective of eliminating terrorism, some States that support terrorism have undermined any joint efforts on the matter.**” S/PV.7316, 19 November 2014, 33

Paris Match, 28 November, President Assad

‘illegal intervention, first because it is not authorized by a Security Council resolution, and second because it did not respect the sovereignty of a state, Syria, in this case. So it is an illegal intervention, and consequently constitutes a violation of sovereignty.’

<http://www.parismatch.com/Actu/International/Our-Interview-with-Syrian-President-Bashar-al-Assad-661984>

Identical letters dated 23 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2015/132, 25 February 2015

In previous letters, we have described **how the Turkish Government is directly supporting terrorist activities against Syria in every way.** It has helped thousands of foreign terrorists,

extremists and mercenaries from around the world to cross into Syrian territory, supplying them with funds, weapons, training and safe haven. Those actions are a blatant violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). I now wish to inform you that the Turkish regime has not limited itself to providing every kind of support for its proxies Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusra Front and other terrorist organizations associated with Al-Qaida. At dawn on 22 February 2015, **the regime itself launched a flagrant aggression** when hundreds of soldiers and Turkish military vehicles entered the territory of the Syrian State.

Identical letters dated 24 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, A/69/795-S/2015/137, 25 February 2015

From 22 December 2014 to 22 February 2015, armed terrorist groups bombed and shelled the cities of Syria, killing 325 Syrian civilians, 57 of them children, and injuring 766 civilians, 141 of them children. Those criminal acts have now claimed a total of 17,186 Syrian civilian lives, including 1,867 children; 15,746 civilians, 2,830 of them children, have been wounded.

...

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities by condemning and holding to account **State sponsors of terrorism, particularly the regimes of Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and by prevailing on them to bring an end to their destructive activities, which endanger international peace and security.**

Identical letters dated 28 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2015/294, 1 May 2015

I write further to our previous letters regarding the Turkish Government's direct and illegal support for armed terrorist groups and their criminal activities against the security and stability of Syria. I wish to draw your attention to some intelligence of the utmost gravity indicating that the **Turkish Government clearly and overtly helped terrorist units to enter Idlib city** in early April 2015, and the city of Jisr al-Shughur and town of Ishtabraq two days ago.

Armed terrorist groups including the Nusra Front, **which is armed and trained by the Turkish Government**, committed a massacre two days ago in the town of Ishtabraq, in the countryside of Jisr al-Shughur.

With backing from the Saudi and Qatari regimes, Turkish intelligence officers in an advanced position on the Turkish-Syrian border directed operations and provided logistical and military support to enable the entry into Syria of some 5,000 foreign terrorist fighters, most of them belonging to the terrorist Nusra Front, which has been included on the Security Council list of terrorist entities.

The Turkish Army provided logistical support and intense covering fire for the recent terrorist attacks on Jisr al-Shughur and Ishtabraq, and before that on Idlib, Kassab and Aleppo. The attacks were therefore a direct Turkish attack on Syria.

Identical letters dated 25 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, A/69/912–S/2015/371, 1 June 2015

The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that those acts of terrorism would not have occurred were it not for the myriad forms of **support that certain States, which are well known to you, have been providing** for more than four years to takfirist terrorist organizations such as ISIL; the Nusrah Front; the so-called Army of Conquest, which is the new guise of the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations that are offshoots of Al-Qaida; the Free Army; and other terrorist gangs that espouse an exclusionary, Wahhabist ideology and the members of which come from more than 90 countries. Those organizations have been receiving generous support from regimes in the region and beyond, at the forefront of which are the regimes of **Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and Israel. ...**

Syria reiterates that it is prepared to cooperate bilaterally and at the regional and international levels to combat terrorism. It has also stated that it supports any genuine international effort aimed at countering the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, provided that, in doing so, every effort is made to safeguard civilian lives, respect national sovereignty and adhere to international instruments.

It once again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to take effective measures against armed terrorist groups and those States that support and sponsor them, including the regimes in each of **Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and certain Western countries**, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Identical letters dated 29 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, A/69/996–S/2015/574, 30 July 2015

Upon instruction from my Government, and with reference to the letter dated 24 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/563). I have the honour to attach herewith a letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council (see annex).

The crisis in Syria has lasted for four and a half years. During that time, Turkey has continually plotted against Syria by collaborating with terrorists, who have come through Turkish territory from more than one hundred States to join Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front, Ahrar al-Sham and other organizations associated with Al-Qaida. The Syrian Government has written numerous letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council documenting the Turkish plot against Syria.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic **rejects the Turkish regime's attempt to portray itself as a victim acting in self-defence. Everybody knows that the Turkish regime has provided all forms of support to the terrorist groups.** In so doing, it has flagrantly violated the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). For instance, as everyone is well aware, ISIL has been stealing petrol, wheat, cotton and antiquities in Syria and selling them in Turkey, with the knowledge of the Turkish regime, in return for weapons, ammunition and logistical services for its members on Turkish territory. Machinery from hundreds of factories in northern Syria

has been dismantled, stolen and transported to Turkey. Indeed, Turkey has continued to train and arm terrorists from the Nusra Front and other organizations associated with Al-Qaida. It has provided fire cover with rifles and rocket launchers while the groups entered Idlib governorate acting under the name Army of Conquest.

Article 51 of the Charter entitles the Syrian Arab Republic to defend its people and land against terrorists who are coming over its borders with the support of the Turkish regime and other regional States. However, the Turkish regime has no right to invoke Article 51, because it is itself the party exporting the terrorism to which it refers.

Identical letters dated 17 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2015/719, 21 September 2015

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to document S/2015/688 of 8 September 2015 and document S/2015/693 of 9 September 2015, I write to inform the Security Council that the United Kingdom, Australia and France are currently taking military measures against the Syrian Arab Republic. To that end, **they invoke a distorted reading of the intention of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, one that is blatantly inconsistent with the Charter and the resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), all of which emphasize that States must respect the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.**

Article 51 of the Charter provides that nothing in the Charter shall impair or detract from States' inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed force attacks a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. France, Britain and Australia claim that they are taking such measures at the request of the Republic of Iraq and in support of the right of Iraq to self-defence. In that connection, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to explain the following points:

- Syria is surprised that certain States, some of which are permanent members of the Security Council, **are violating international law and the Charter of the United Nations** and have the temerity to explain their actions by distorting the meaning of this important and sensitive paragraph of the Charter in a manner that risks causing chaos and wars across the world. **Syria has not made any request to that effect.** Moreover, the Security Council has adopted numerous resolutions on counter-terrorism in Syria that are binding on States Members of the United Nations.
- In accordance with its constitutional duties, and on instructions from the Syrian Government, the Syrian Arab Army has, over the last four years, indefatigably fought such armed terrorist groups as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusra Front and other organizations associated with Al-Qaida and supported by Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and certain well-known western States, which arm, shelter and train the terrorist groups. Any actor that genuinely wishes to fight terrorism in Syria must recognize the achievements of the Syrian Arab Army and the Syrian armed forces in combating terrorism, and must coordinate with them.
- The claims, particularly those made in the Australian letter, are belied by the actions taken by the Syrian Arab Army to combat ISIL, the Nusra Front and other armed terrorist organizations. Such claims are foolish, mendacious and need not be dignified

with a response. Indeed, the so-called international coalition led by America has yet to achieve anything tangible in its war on the terrorist organizations. On the contrary, it has allowed the terrorist organization ISIL and its satellites and allies to expand, move and deploy freely, not only in Syria and Iraq but also in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Tunisia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and even at the heart of certain Western States whose behaviour and political discourse encourage their terrorist actions.

- If any State invokes the excuse of counter-terrorism in order to be present on Syrian territory without the consent of the Syrian Government, whether on the country's land or in its airspace or territorial waters, its actions shall be considered a violation of Syrian sovereignty. Combating terrorism on Syrian territory requires close cooperation and coordination with the Syrian Government in accordance with the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council.
- In order genuinely to fight terrorism, the Governments and agencies of Britain, Australia and France should stop exporting extremist terrorists to Syria and refrain from providing them with logistical support and a media platform from which to spread their obscurantist, destructive ideology.
- The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the United Kingdom, Australia and France must respect the resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), all of which stress that States must respect the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. **Those States must also cease violating and distorting the meaning of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.**

Identical letters dated 21 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, A/70/385-S/2015/727, 22 September 2015

The United Nations is currently marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), which prohibits incitement to violence and terrorism. We are also approaching the fourteenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) on counter-terrorism, which followed the terrorist attacks in New York on 11 September 2001. On this occasion, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the United Nations, its competent entities and its Member States to make a genuine and sincere commitment to fighting terrorism; to fully and decisively enforce the texts that we have adopted over the years; to hold States sponsors of terrorism to account; and to prevail on them to refrain from violating international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

... Yet the Governments of certain States Members of this Organization, particularly Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar, continue to provide every form of support for terrorism and terrorists, including funds and weapons, extremist takfirist ideology and foreign mercenary recruits. The Governments of certain other States, some of which are members of the Security Council, have continued to politicize counter-terrorism issues. They take a frankly ideological approach to the topic, turning a blind eye to the glaring violations committed by State sponsors of terrorism, which ought to be held rigorously accountable. Citing pretexts that have become all too familiar to everyone, certain Member States have let their territory become a safe haven for extremist groups, which have free rein to incite violence and terrorism, spread their hateful rhetoric and sow discord among religions. What are the Security Council and the United Nations doing about all of this?

The United States, Britain, France, Canada and Australia have sought to justify their intervention in Syria by citing the fight against ISIL. They have invoked Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, but have not consulted with the Syrian Government. That course of action distorts the provisions of the Charter and manipulates international law. Such an assault on Syrian sovereignty will merely give terrorism a freer hand. The only productive way to combat terrorism remains the establishment of an effective international coalition within the framework of international law and with the participation of concerned States, particularly Syria, which is the main party confronting terrorism in the region.

30 September 2015

The actions of the United Kingdom and France in Syrian air space are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as a flagrant violation of Syria's national sovereignty. Those who genuinely wish to combat terrorism must coordinate their efforts with the Syrian Government. What we heard today from the representative of France clearly illustrates the true role that France has played in supporting terrorism. Such sentiments are inappropriate and should be considered unworthy of a permanent member of the Security Council. The international community is already aware of the destructive role that France has played in Libya.

On the other hand, we strongly endorse the initiative of President Putin, who has called for the creation of a regional and international coalition to fight terrorism, as personified by Daesh and the Al-Nusra Front, in order to put an end to the very existence of those groups, with, of course Syria's essential participation. (S/PV.7527, 30 September 2015 p. 30).

Identical letters dated 9 November 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2015/851, 16 November 2015

Aircraft of the **so-called international coalition led by the United States of America continue to violate the sovereignty of Syria under the pretext that they are targeting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.** Thus, on Saturday, 10 October 2015, aircraft belonging to that coalition bombed the Radwaniyah area east of Aleppo city, targeting two thermal power stations. The bombardment caused severe damage to those stations and took them out of service, cutting off electricity to the area. The losses sustained amount to €1.2 billion.

The bombardment by coalition aircraft of the power stations east of Aleppo city and other infrastructure in various parts of Syria is a heinous act of aggression and a continuation of the air strikes against the country's economic, industrial and service infrastructure ...

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its stated position that the air raids conducted by the United States of America and its alliance inside the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic are illegal. Those raids are taking place without the prior approval of and in the absence of coordination with the Syrian Government, in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The Government calls for the cessation of these American Western operations against the infrastructure of Syria and stresses that they will not contribute anything to the war against ISIL.

20 November 2015

‘Welcome to everybody who finally woke up and joined the club of combating terrorists,” Syria's U.N. Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari told reporters ahead of the vote on the French-drafted resolution.’ (Reuters, 20 November 2015)

Identical letters dated 7 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2015/933, 8 December 2015

At 1900 hours on Sunday, 6 December 2015, four aircraft belonging to the coalition led by the United States of America fired nine missiles at a Syrian Arab Army camp in the city of Dayr al-Zawr. Three soldiers were killed and 13 others wounded in the attack, which also resulted in the destruction of three BMP vehicles, four military transport vehicles, one 23 mm calibre machine gun, one 14.5 mm calibre machine gun and a munitions depot.

This attack by aircraft of the United States-led coalition against a Syrian military unit comes at a time when the Syrian Arab Army is taking on takfirist terrorist groups, such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusrah Front and terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida, in every part of Syria and hinders efforts to combat terrorism. This attack also confirms once again that this coalition lacks the seriousness and credibility needed to combat terrorism effectively. Events have confirmed that terrorism is not constrained by borders and that it presents a serious threat to regional and international security, stability and peace.

The Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns this blatant aggression by coalition forces, which is in stark contradiction to the principles and purposes of the United Nations. The Syrian Government calls on the Security Council to take immediate action in response to this aggression and also to take the necessary measures to ensure that it does not happen again.

Identical letters dated 10 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, A/70/616, S/2015/951, 15 December 2015

On 7 and 9 December 2015, terrorist groups indiscriminately fired various types of missiles at peaceful residential neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo, killing several civilians and injuring others. Those attacks were a continuation of the acts of terrorism and crimes against humanity that armed terrorist groups have been committing against innocent civilians in various Syrian cities. ...

Such crimes would not have continued to occur throughout the crisis were it not for the large amounts of money, weapons and ammunition that such States as Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar provide to the terrorist groups, and were it not for the fact that certain Security Council members continue to turn a blind eye to the crimes committed by terrorists and continue to remain silent regarding the crimes committed by the regimes and States that are funding, training, harbouring, arming and recruiting the terrorists, who come from many countries around the world in order to destroy Syria and Iraq.

Identical letters dated 18 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2015/998, 20 December 2015

Since 2011, an unprecedented terrorist war has been waged against the Syrian Arab Republic by armed terrorist groups, the members of which come from more than 100 countries. Those groups are being provided with funding, weapons, materiel and logistical support by States and regimes from the region and beyond. **The most prominent of those is the Erdoğan regime that rules Turkey. That regime has not been content to merely support terrorism and various terrorist groups, particularly Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), in flagrant violation of the Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). Indeed, its armed forces have been involved in military operations in support of ISIL and other terrorist groups.**

Identical letters dated 22 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, A/70/654, S/2015/1014, 7 January 2016

We should like to refer to our previous letters, in particular the letter issued under symbol S/2015/933, concerning the **ongoing attacks by aircraft of the so-called international coalition led by the United States of America against the oil and gas installations and the economic infrastructure of Syria, under the pretext that the target is the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization. Such attacks violate the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. ...**

Aircraft of the coalition led by the United States of America have carried out dozens of attacks against Syrian economic facilities, instead of bombing ISIL and that group's vehicles, which are transporting stolen Syrian oil to Turkey. The coalition has not presented any information in that regard to the United Nations, as required by the relevant Security Council resolutions. The annex to the present letter lists the oil installations that American aircraft bombed in the period from 30 October to 15 November 2015 as part of the war that is being waged against Syria. ...

In view of the deliberate destruction of the country's oil and economic installations, the Syrian Arab Republic reserves its right under international law to demand compensation from the States members of the American coalition for the damage that they have caused.

Identical letters dated 27 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, A/70/671, S/2015/1043, 30 December 2015

On 20 December 2015, aircraft belonging to that coalition bombed and completely destroyed the Husayn north gas terminal of the Syrian Gas Company in south-western Raqqah governorate. Coalition aircraft also bombed the Rasm al-Kawm terminal, which is located in that same area. ...

The bombing of the terminals under the pretext of combatting ISIL is therefore completely unjustified and is part of the American coalition's efforts to strike directly the oil and gas extraction infrastructure in Syria. ...

The repeated attacks being carried out by the aircraft of the so-called international coalition clearly demonstrate the hostile intentions of coalition aircraft and of the States that make up the coalition towards the Syrian Arab Republic. Those attacks are part of the offensive military operations that are aimed at deliberately destroying the economic, industrial, service and production infrastructure of the Syrian people. Moreover, the equipment and facilities that are not destroyed by coalition aircraft are stolen or destroyed by terrorist groups.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses once again that it has **the right to demand compensation from the American Government and its ally States for the deliberate destruction of Syrian economic and oil installations**. It also calls on the American Government to stop immediately those practices, which serve only the interests of the terrorists and the enemies of the Syrian people.

Identical letters dated 28 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2015/1044, 31 December 2015

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the terrorism being suffered by the cities and towns of Syria, which has been going on for more than four years, would not be happening were it not for the large amounts of money, **weapons and ammunition provided to the terrorist groups by such States as Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, which are partners in the crimes being perpetrated against the Syrian people**. Such support is in flagrant defiance of the Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, notably resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015). At the same time, the efforts of such States as the United States, the United Kingdom and France, which are permanent members of the Security Council, to prevent the Council from condemning those terrorist crimes only encourages the terrorists to persist with their terrorism, and demonstrates a lack of seriousness on the part of those States about fighting terrorism.

Identical letters dated 29 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, A/70/673, S/2015/1048, 4 January 2016

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

In his letter dated 3 December 2015 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/928), the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom on the Security Council states that, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and further to Security Council resolution 2249 (2015), his country is taking necessary and proportionate measures against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Daesh. The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to respond by making the following points: [...].

4. As we explained in our identical letters dated 17 September 2015 (S/2015/719), **any attempt to invoke Article 51 of the Charter to justify military action on Syrian territory without coordination with the Syrian Government manipulates, distorts and misinterprets the provisions of that Article. The international community recognizes that the exercise of legitimate defence is subject to conditions that were put in place in order to uphold international law and the principles of sovereignty and non-**

interference, and to prevent the threat or use of force. Among the conditions required by Article 51 are that there should be an ongoing and effective act of aggression on the part of an armed force against a Member State, that the response should be temporary, and that it should respect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council. The military actions taken by Britain and other States in Syria do not meet those conditions. As a result, they belong outside the scope of international law, absent full cooperation and prior coordination with the Syrian State and its legitimate institutions as is the case with the Syrian and Russian Governments.

5. Britain and other States have spoken of intervening against terrorist organizations in Syria at the request of a Government other than that of the Syrian Arab Republic. That idea is a grave violation of international law and sets a dangerous precedent for international relations, one that could undermine the foundations of international law and the provisions of the Charter, which the United Nations is required to preserve and uphold. Such a precedent leaves the door wide open for certain States to further their own interests and agendas at the expense of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Member States of the United Nations.

6. The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom also attempts to invoke Security Council resolution 2249 (2015) in a frantic attempt to find an excuse for Britain's conduct, which is contrary to international law. **Security Council resolution 2249 (2015) stresses respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States under the Charter. It was not adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter, and does not empower or request Member States to use military force.** Rather, it merely calls for measures in compliance with the Charter and international law, both of which uphold the sovereignty and equality of States and prohibit the threat or use of force. Could it be that the representative of a State that has held a permanent seat on the Security Council for seven decades is unaware of those facts?

7. As we explained in our identical letters of 8 September 2015 ([S/2015/690](#)), the fight against terrorism, as represented by such terrorist organizations such as ISIL, the Nusra Front, Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab, the East Turkestan Movement and Emarat Kavkaz, requires a comprehensive approach based on international law and the Charter of the United Nations, one that eschews politicization, manipulation and double standards. It also requires the Governments of certain Member States, including the British Government, to refrain from supporting terrorism; fuelling violent extremism; providing safe haven to terrorist operatives and leaders; and politicizing or exploiting counter-terrorism and human rights issues to promote their own agendas and rapacity.

Identical letters dated 11 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2016/31, 12 January 2016

On instructions from my Government, I refer to our previous letters informing you of the attacks carried out by the so-called international coalition, led by the United States of America, against the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, its oil and gas facilities and its economic infrastructure. In that connection, I wish to transmit the following information. ...

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to point out that **by bombarding the service, economic, industrial and productive infrastructure, the so-called international**

coalition has demonstrated its members' hostile intentions towards the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again asserts its right to seek compensation from the Governments of the United States of America and its coalition partners for the damage deliberately inflicted on Syrian service, industrial, productive and gas facilities. It requests that they bring an immediate end to such practices, which benefit only the terrorists and the enemies of the Syrian people.

Identical letters dated 18 January 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2016/45, 22 January 2016

On instructions from my Government, and in response to the allegations made in the letter dated 24 December 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey (S/2015/1029), I should like to inform you of Turkey's repeated acts of aggression and violations of the integrity of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

In December 2015, motorized armed Turkish forces infiltrated the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, heading for the village of Dayr Ghusun, locality of Jawadiyah; the village of Bustan, district of Malikiyah; the locality of Abu Rasin, district of Ra's al-Ayn; and the area to the north of the villages of Amanah and Shaykh Mansur, locality of Dirbasiyah. ...

The Turkish Government has, moreover, continued to provide various forms of military, logistical and financial support to the Turkmen terrorist groups that act as its proxies. A number of Turkish Army and intelligence officers regularly visit the training camps that the groups have established on Syrian territory, in order to train the terrorists in the use of various types of weapons and assassination techniques, particularly in I'zaz district. ...

The Turkish Army and its engineering units continued to violate the integrity of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic on numerous occasions. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns the Turkish military forces' repeated acts of aggression and violations of the integrity of Syrian territory. Those actions are a glaring attack on all of the principles of international law and neighbourly policies. They also blatantly violate Syrian sovereignty, the Charter of the United Nations and its purposes and principles, and the norms of neighbourly relations.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reserves the right to respond to those repeated violations and acts of encroachment on the integrity of Syrian territory. It asserts its right to request compensation for all of the damage caused by such actions.

Turkey's violations and acts of aggression, some of which are described above, follow in a series of crimes against the territory and people of Syria committed by the Erdoğan regime for almost five years. The Turkish regime has helped foreign terrorists to infiltrate Syria. It has offered them safe haven and health care on Turkish territory, where it has established terrorist training camps. It has also funded armed terrorist groups and provided them with weapons, ammunition and intelligence, both covertly and overtly.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic requests that the Turkish Government bring an immediate end to all of its acts of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and the safety and security of the Syrian people. It also requests that the Security Council assume its responsibility by curbing those aggressive acts in order to maintain international peace and security.

Identical letters dated 26 January 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2016/80, 28 January 2016

On instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you of two bloody terrorist bombings that took place on the morning of Tuesday, 26 January 2016 in the residential neighbourhood of Zahra', in the city of Homs.

... These two bloody explosions are part of a series of systematic, savage acts of terrorism carried out by armed terrorist groups in Syria. The groups are supported by well-known States in the region and beyond, which have been using the terrorists in order to serve their own petty, irresponsible political agendas.

... **The bases for such action should include, in particular, respect for the principles of international law and the need to cooperate and coordinate fully with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in any efforts to combat terrorism;** save lives; uphold the principles and values of justice, freedom and dignity; and combat the terrorists' culture of extremism, fanaticism and rejection.

Identical letters dated 23 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2016/174, 2 March 2016

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic rejects the attempts made by the United Nations Secretariat and certain Western States on the Security Council to deny the right of States, under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, to defend themselves, their people and their territory from terrorism and aggression. It is unacceptable for the Secretariat to take a negative stance regarding the successes achieved in the war against **foreign-backed terrorism** by the Syrian Arab Army and its allies, which have liberated numerous regions of Syrian territory where armed terrorist groups had been active; broken the siege that the terrorists had imposed on such towns and villages as Nubul and Zahra'; and restored security and stability to other areas. Those successes have opened the way for displaced persons to return to their areas and homes. The Government attaches great importance to the return of those people who were forcibly displaced and is doing everything possible to ensure that they can return and settle down again.

Identical letters dated 14 April 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, S/2016/343, 20 April 2016

On instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters drawing your attention to attacks by the so-called international coalition, led by the United States of America, against certain oil and gas facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic and its economic infrastructure,

... The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls for the immediate cessation of these practices and stresses that it has the right to demand compensation from the States of the so-called international coalition for the deliberate destruction of Syrian service, industrial, production and gas installations.

... **Total damages from the air bombardment by the Western coalition in 2016 (United States dollars) : 2 400 000 \$**

Russia

September 2014

"There is doubt over the legitimacy of the strikes as such actions can only be carried out with the approval of the United Nations and the unequivocal permission of the authorities of the country where they are taking place, which in this case is the government in Damascus," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/russia-condemns-u-s-strikes-on-islamic-state-without-syria-s-approval/507784.html>

"The fight against terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa requires coordinated efforts from the entire international community under the U.N. aegis," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "Attempts to accomplish one's own geopolitical tasks by violating other countries' sovereignty fuel more tensions and destabilize the situation further."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/arab-backing-to-us-led-airstrikes-in-syria-widens-front-against-islamic-state/2014/09/23/85664a44-430c-11e4-b437-1a7368204804_story.html

Letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2015/792, 15 October 2015

Annex to the letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

... **in response to a request from the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Bashar al-Asad, to provide military assistance in combating the terrorist group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other terrorist groups operating in Syria**, the Russian Federation began launching air and missile strikes against the assets of terrorist formations in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic on 30 September 2015.

This decision was taken in the light of the extremely dangerous crisis that has unfolded in Syria, which has the potential for further expansion as a result of the activities of international terrorists and extremists.

The threat posed by ISIL and other terrorist groups clearly extends far beyond the region of the Middle East and North Africa. **Their elimination requires truly collective approaches, based on the norms and principles of international law and the provisions of the United Nations Charter**, bringing together each and every force committed to defeating terrorism and ensuring their flexible and efficient coordination. The Russian Federation has therefore

submitted specific proposals to the Security Council aimed at establishing a united front to combat terrorism.

20 November 2015

We welcome the growing understanding that the time has come to join ranks in the international community in the face of terrorism.

Of course, **we had to support France's draft resolution. While resolution 2249 (2015) was prepared in extraordinary circumstances and with a very tight time frame, the French delegation did take on board Russia's important amendments. We are convinced that the Charter of the United Nations should be an important foundation in combating international terrorism as it relates to the use of force. We felt it important that that be reflected in the text, as in fact it now is.**

In our view, the French resolution is a political appeal, rather than a change to the legal principles underlying the fight against terrorism. We consider it a step in creating a broad anti-terrorism front by marshalling comprehensive cooperation among all States to end all manifestations of terrorism and eradicate its root causes. S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 5

Nigeria

terrorist groups are a major threat to international peace and security. Nigeria condemns those barbaric and cowardly attacks in the strongest terms.

The situation calls for urgent action by the international community to intensify the fight against ISIS and other terrorist groups, including Boko Haram. **Resolution 2249 (2015), which the Council just adopted, provides a framework for achieving that. All United Nations States Members must now work together to diligently implement the resolution.** S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 5

Jordan

Jordan welcomes the adoption of resolution 2249 (2015), which we voted in favour of because it reflects our belief in the need to **strengthen and coordinate international efforts to combat the terrorist organization known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS)** S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 6

New Zealand

we are reminded of the important role of the Council in uniting the international community around our shared commitment to peace and collective security. S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 7

Chile

Combating terrorism must take place in line with the obligations flowing from international law and the Charter of the United Nations. S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 7.

Angola

it is high time for the international community and the main international players to put aside our differences, national egoism and arrogance and work decidedly to build a global coalition to fight and eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as called for by international public opinion. It is our hope that the adoption of resolution 2249 (2015), in the wake of this deadly concerted terrorist act, will serve as a wake-up call for a radical change in attitude by the world's main players. S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 7

Bolivia

It is time to be consistent in our efforts — to take joint, coordinated and consensual actions and to meet our responsibilities as members of the Security Council under the mandate conferred upon us in line with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Finally, my country is convinced that the fight against terrorism must be waged in the context of **international cooperation under the binding international and regional instruments in this sphere, including relevant Security Council resolutions and the norms of international law**,

We hope that the action taken pursuant to resolution 2249 (2015) and the fight against terrorism **will always be coordinated with the countries concerned** and that no participating actor will have a political agenda other than the defeat of terrorism and, in the case of Syria, support for the negotiating process among its people, Government, the countries of the region and the international community, which are backing an effort that we all hope will be fruitful and successful. S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 8

Venezuela

We believe that the prolonged war in the region, **along with military interventions in Iraq, Libya and Syria** as well as assistance to armed groups seeking to destabilize or overthrow Governments, has led to tragic consequences, exacerbating inter-religious and ethnic hatred and violence as State institutions have crumbled or collapsed.

We call on the Security Council to insist on full compliance with the resolutions it has adopted within the framework of Chapter VII of the Charter, which prohibit funding and support for such criminal groups. S/PV.7419, 27 March 2015, 24

Venezuela reiterates that any solution to the armed conflict in Syria must be political, peaceful and negotiated. That is the only way to preserve peace and stability there with the full cooperation of the people of Syria and their Government. We must **ensure respect for its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence**, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations S/PV.7501, 7 August 2015, 6

We reiterate our **commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Syrian Arab Republic, in line with international law**, including the Charter of the United Nations. S/PV.7504, 17 August 2015, 4

“Only an alliance that respects these nations’ sovereignty and the assistance of their governments, people and armed forces will truly defeat Islamic terrorism as well as all of the terrorist forces that have emerged like a Frankenstein, a monster nursed by the West itself,” Maduro said, [according](#) to AFP, referring to the [airstrikes](#) being conducted by the U.S., and its Arab and European allies, in [Iraq](#) and Syria.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/venezuelas-nicolas-maduro-calls-re-founding-un-slams-us-led-airstrikes-iraq-syria-1694699>

Ecuador

23 September 2014

El Gobierno del Ecuador rechaza el bombardeo registrado en esta fecha por los Estados Unidos de América y otros países en territorio sirio, como inicio de una ofensiva concebida para combatir a la organización yihadista denominada “Estado Islámico”.

Las acciones llevadas a cabo contravienen el Derecho Internacional, pues no han sido conocidas por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas ni han sido autorizadas por el Consejo de Seguridad.

<http://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/ecuador-rechaza-ofensiva-estadounidense-en-territorio-sirio/>

25 September

El

canciller

ecuatoriano,

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"Habida cuenta de que puede haber problemas internos en cualquier país del mundo, ningún otro país o grupos de países pueden invadir o bombardear el territorio de ese país al menos de que tenga el consentimiento del mismo", afirmó Patiño.

Patiño dijo que, según las noticias de las que disponía, "Siria no ha autorizado esa intervención". "Creemos que es inaceptable que así sea", agregó el ministro ecuatoriano.

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<http://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/onu-ricardo-patino-julian-assange.html>

Iran

September 2014

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, for his part, called for a “resolute fight” against Islamic State “terrorists” but said **the American attacks in Syria “do not have any legal standing.”**

Speaking in a meeting in New York with senior editors of news organizations, he noted that Syria had not agreed to the bombardment and said it was not carried out under the “rules of the United Nations.” He described the airstrikes as an “attack” on Syria.

“There is no cooperation between us and the United States” in the action against Islamic State, Rouhani said. He said Iran had been first to offer assistance to Iraq when the United States had set strict limits on its military involvement.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/arab-backing-to-us-led-airstrikes-in-syria-widens-front-against-islamic-state/2014/09/23/85664a44-430c-11e4-b437-1a7368204804_story.html

The US-led [air strikes](#) on Isis targets in Syria are illegal and should have been conducted only after receiving consent from the Syrian government, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has reportedly said.

In a meeting on the first day of the United Nations General Assembly gathering of world leaders, Mr Rouhani stressed that Iran condemns the barbaric actions committed by Isis and said Iran stands ready to help fight terrorism.

Without a UN mandate or a request from the government of the affected country, military interventions "don't have any legal standing", he was quoted as saying by *Reuters*.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/syria-air-strikes-iran-says-us-attacks-on-isis-are-illegal-9751245.html>

Cuba

September 2015

The Cuban permanent representative before the Geneva-based United Nations Human Rights Council, Rodolfo Reyes, reiterated on Tuesday that his country hopes for a peaceful solution to the current crisis in Syria, “one that fully respects the sovereignty and independence of that Arab nation.”

Speaking during a discussion on the topic at the U.N. body in Geneva, Reyes warned that a civil war or a foreign intervention in Syria could bring about serious consequences for humanity and, particularly, for the already convulsed region of the Middle East

“The role of the international community, in a difficult moment for a U.N. member state, is to work to safeguard peace and stability in that country, and **not to promote actions that can lead to death, crimes, aggressions against innocent people**, and the lack of safety in cities and towns,” Reyes noted.

“The issue of human rights is not the genuine motivation of this new debate in the Council,” said the Cuban representative as he criticized the position of some member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on the Middle East.

He also referred to the unjustifiable bombings against Libya that resulted from the approval of Resolution 1973 of the U.N. Security Council in March 2011, as well as the killing of innocent civilians, the assassination of a head of state (Muammar Gaddafi), and the tolerance of Israel’s criminal actions against the Palestinian people.

“Taking into account recent cases in which we have seen a manipulation of the U.N. Charter as well as the double standard of the United States and other NATO members, we reject any attempt to undermine the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Syria,” Reyes pointed out.

“Cuba reiterates that international cooperation, based on the principles of objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity, is the only way to effectively promote and protect all human rights,” he added.

“At the same time, Cuba is confident of the capacity of the Syrian people and government to solve their domestic problems without foreign interference,” the diplomat concluded.

<http://www.ahora.cu/en/sections/world/1931-cuba-advocates-political-solution-to-crisis-in-syria>

China

‘international law should be respected and the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of relevant nations should also be respected (JUFIL, 136)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-iraq-crisis-china-idUSKBN0H60P020140911>

Military actions must comply with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Security Council resolutions. S/PV.7272, 24 September 2014, 17

it is imperative to consistently comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the basic norms governing international relations, while maintaining the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria. S/PV.7433, 24 April 2015, 19

The international community must join hands to act **in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations** and other basic norms of international relations. It must give **full play to the leading role of the United Nations, further strengthen coordination and cooperation** in counter-terrorism, and form a united front against terrorism. (S/PV. 7565, 20 November 2015, 2)

Letter dated 8 July 2016 from the representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, S/2016/600, 12 July 2016

Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2016 from the representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Original: Chinese, English and Russian

The Declaration of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on the Promotion of International Law

1. The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China reiterate their full commitment to the principles of international law as they are reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. They are also guided by the principles enshrined in the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The principles of international law are the cornerstone for just and equitable international relations featuring win-win cooperation, creating a community of shared future for mankind, and establishing common space of equal and indivisible security and economic cooperation.

2. The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China share the view that the principle of sovereign equality is crucial for the stability of international relations. States enjoy their rights on the basis of independence and on an equal footing, and assume their obligations and responsibilities on the basis of mutual respect. States have the right to participate in the making, interpreting and applying of international law on an equal footing, and have the obligation to comply with international law in good faith and in a coherent and consistent manner.

3. The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China reaffirm the principle that States shall refrain from the threat or use of force in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and therefore condemn unilateral military interventions.

4. The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China fully support the principle of non-intervention in the internal or external affairs of States, and condemn as a violation of this principle any interference by States in the internal affairs of other States with the aim of forging change of legitimate governments. The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China condemn extraterritorial application of national law by States not in conformity with international law as another example of violation of the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.

5. The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China reaffirm the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes and express their firm conviction that States shall resolve their disputes through dispute settlement means and mechanisms that they have agreed upon, and all means of settlement of disputes should serve the goal of resolving disputes in a peaceful manner in accordance with applicable international law, thus leading to de-escalation of tensions and promotion of peaceful cooperation among disputing parties. This applies equally to all types and stages of dispute settlement, including political and diplomatic means when they serve a pre-requisite to the use of other mechanisms of dispute settlement. It is crucial for the maintenance of international legal order that all dispute settlement means and mechanisms are based on consent and used in good faith and in the spirit of cooperation, and their purposes shall not be undermined by abusive practices.

6. The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China share the view that good faith implementation of generally recognized principles and rules of international law excludes the practice of double standards or imposition by some States of their will on other States, and consider that imposition of unilateral coercive measures not based on international law, also

known as “unilateral sanctions”, is an example of such practice. The adoption of unilateral coercive measures by States in addition to measures adopted by the United Nations Security Council can defeat the objects and purposes of measures imposed by the Security Council, and undermine their integrity and effectiveness.

7. The Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as a global threat that undermines the international order based on international law. To counter this threat requires collective action in full accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

8. The Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China assert that international obligations regarding immunity of States, their property and officials must be honoured by States at all times. Violations of these obligations are not in conformity with the principle of sovereign equality of States and may contribute to the escalation of tensions.

9. The Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China emphasize the important role of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in maintaining the rule of law relating to activities in the Oceans. It is of utmost importance that the provisions of this universal treaty are applied consistently, in such a manner that does not impair rights and legitimate interests of States Parties and does not compromise the integrity of the legal regime established by the Convention.

10. In line with their relationship of strategic partnership, the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China are resolved to further enhance their cooperation in upholding and promoting international law and in establishing a just and equitable international order based on international law.

Chad

we would also recall the **importance of preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the need to ensure that any recourse to force is solidly rooted in the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.** S/PV.7272, 24 September 2014, 7

Brazil

our commitment to a **multidimensional response to the challenges posed by terrorism and remain convinced that cooperation and dialogue within the United Nations** will enhance our capacity to counter this dangerous matter S/PV.7316, 19 November 2014, 37

Belarus

30 June 2015

” We stress our support to Syria and we call upon the international community to work on combating terrorism and solving the crisis in Syria peacefully.

” Belarus has a conviction that Syria is able to get out of the crisis stronger than before, and our country has great aspirations for the possibility of bilateral cooperation,” Makei added.

<http://www.syriaonline.sy/?f=Details&catid=12&pageid=14293>

South Africa

22 June 2015

Ambassador of South Africa in Damascus Shaun Byneveldt affirmed his country's support for Syria's efforts to find a political solution for the crisis in it, saying "Syria is for the Syrians, and they along can solve its problems."

In an interview given to the Syrian TV, Byneveldt said that **South Africa rejects military solutions for the crisis in Syria, as Syria is an independent, sovereign state that can handle its own affairs.**

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=45877>

India

28 July 2015

Undersecretary of Indian Ministry of External Affairs Anil Wadhwa, meeting Syria's Ambassador in New Delhi, Dr. Riad Abbas, stressed the **need for cooperation in fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and terrorism phenomenon in the region, adding that India supports, as it has always been, the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Syria.**

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=49799>

Belgium

http://www.lavenir.net/cnt/DMF20150904_00697446

Interrogé à son arrivée au conseil des ministres hebdomadaire, M. Reynders (MR) a rappelé que **tant le gouvernement que le parlement avaient toujours posé comme préalable l'existence d'un mandat du Conseil de sécurité de l'Onu autorisant une intervention en Syrie**, un pays plongé depuis quatre ans dans une guerre civile qui a fait plus de 240 000 morts.

«Nous allons donc encore tenter de convaincre la Russie» de ne pas mettre son veto à une résolution du Conseil de sécurité, a ajouté le chef de la diplomatie belge.

Le Soir, 10 septembre 2015

<http://www.lesoir.be/986394/article/actualite/belgique/politique/2015-09-10/belgique-n-exclut-pas-une-intervention-aerienne-en-syrie-hors-mandat-onu>

Le gouvernement belge est prêt à étudier la participation à des opérations militaires aériennes en Syrie pour lutter contre le groupe Etat islamique (EI), y compris hors du cadre d'une résolution des Nations-Unies, a laissé entendre jeudi le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Didier Reynders, devant une commission mixte de la Chambre.

Pour améliorer l'efficacité de notre action contre Daesh, l'élargissement éventuel de nos opérations aériennes vers la Syrie doit faire l'objet d'une analyse approfondie. Si la Belgique préfère en toute hypothèse agir dans le cadre d'une résolution du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, il faudra cependant examiner, en temps opportun et en fonction des demandes qui seront adressées par nos partenaires de la coalition, ce qui est réalisable en droit international»,

La Belgique a toujours privilégié un mandat des Nations unies mais la situation a récemment évolué, a précisé le chef de la diplomatie belge en évoquant les initiatives françaises au nom de l'article 51 de la Charte des Nations Unies. La disposition consacre le droit naturel à la légitime défense.

ASEAN

East Asia Summit Statement on the rise of violence and brutality committed by terrorist/extremist organisations in Iraq and Syria, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar (November 13, 2014)

The Leaders of the participating countries of the East Asia Summit welcomed the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria on 26 September 2014.

The East Asia Summit expressed deep concern over the rise of violence and brutality committed by the self-declared ISIL and other terrorist/extremist organisations and radical groups in Iraq and Syria, noting that these individuals —who have gained skills and expertise and become part of terrorist networks — **not only pose a threat to the people of Iraq and Syria, but to their home countries as well as third countries around the world.**

The Leaders **affirmed support for the new Iraqi government** and encouraged it to develop and implement an inclusive policy which unifies the country by representing and defending the interests of all Iraqi people. The Leaders stressed the importance of providing assistance to the victims of ISIL terror and of continued humanitarian aid.

The Leaders strongly denounced all terrorist acts of destruction and violence, and denounced terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated their commitment to combating terrorism, in particular foreign terrorist fighters through global action, including, as appropriate, the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, both of which aim to prevent and suppress terrorism by addressing its root causes and disrupting terror networks and financing channels.

The Leaders reaffirmed support for the **full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2170 (2014) which calls on the international community to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, and Resolution 2178 (2014) which decides to prevent and suppress the recruiting, organising, transporting or equipping of individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, and the financing of their travel and of their activities.**

The Leaders also affirmed that terrorism must be addressed in a comprehensive manner requiring a multifaceted approach, including addressing underlying factors that support terrorism, preventing radicalisation to terrorism, disrupting support mechanisms such as financing and supply of weapons, taking all feasible precautions to avoid losses of civilian lives and damage to civilian objects and promoting political and religious tolerance, economic development, social cohesion and inclusiveness.

The Leaders recognized that moderation is a factor in the pursuit of long lasting peace and a

tool to counter extremism and terrorism, diffuse tensions and negate radicalization, and reiterated their support for the provisions in the UN Security Council Resolution 2178 to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter violent extremism.

The Leaders affirmed their support for the Global Movement of Moderates in moving the moderation agenda forward to counter intolerant, violent and militant extremism; deliver economic, political and social justice; call for greater cooperation and understanding among cultures, religions and civilisations aiming to drown out the voices of extremism.

The East Asia Summit renewed its commitment to work with the international community to fight against extremism, radicalism and terrorism and to prevent further violence and brutality **in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.**

Adopted at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, this Thirteenth of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fourteen at the 9th East Asia Summit.

Non-aligned Movement

Respect for the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations as a key element for the maintenance of international peace and security (S/PV.7621, 15 February 2016)

‘... consistent with the practice of the United Nations and international law, as pronounced by the International Court of Justice, Article 51 of the Charter is restrictive and should not be rewritten or reinterpreted.’ (S/PV.7621, Representative of Iran, speaking on behalf of the NAM, 34)

17th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, Venezuela, 16-18 September 2016, par. 25.2

‘... consistent with the practice of the UN and international law, as pronounced by the ICJ, Article 51 of the UN Charter is restrictive and should not be re-written or re-interpreted.’