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The situation in the Middle East

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

**Identical letters dated 26 January 2024 from the Permanent
Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

In the capacity of the Kingdom of Morocco as the current Chair of the 160th session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the League of Arab States and Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations (see annex) transmitting resolutions 8988 and 8989, adopted by the Council at an extraordinary session held virtually on 17 January 2024.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34 and 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Omar **Hilale**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the identical letters dated 26 January 2024 from the
Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

[Original: Arabic]

In keeping with the practice followed by the Group of Arab States whereby the chair of each ministerial session or summit of the Council of the League of Arab States or the Chair of the Group of Arab States in New York is charged with transmitting the relevant resolutions, communiqués or documents that were adopted to the appropriate United Nations bodies by means of an official memorandum or letter from the Permanent Observer Mission for the League of Arab States to the United Nations, and in accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, and given that you are the Chair of the 160th session of the Council at the ministerial level, I have the honour to transmit herewith the final versions of resolutions 8988 and 8989 (see enclosures), which were adopted by the Council at the ministerial level at an extraordinary session held on 17 January 2024 by videolink and chaired by Yemen in its capacity as Chair pro tempore. Those resolutions are:

- Resolution 8988, entitled “Support for the Federal Republic of Somalia in responding to attacks against its sovereignty and territorial integrity”; and
- Resolution 8989, entitled “Iranian violations of the territorial sovereignty of Iraq”.

In accordance with the instructions of the secretariat of the League of Arab States and the relevant working methods of the Group of Arab States in New York, I should be grateful if you would transmit these identical letters and their enclosures to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for issuance as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 on the situation in the Middle East and agenda item 61 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and to the President of the Security Council for issuance as a document of the Council.

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

Enclosure 1

Resolution 8988, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level at an extraordinary session held by videolink, concerning support for the Federal Republic of Somalia in responding to attacks against its sovereignty and territorial integrity

Support for the Federal Republic of Somalia in responding to attacks against its sovereignty and territorial integrity

The Council of the League of Arab States, meeting at the ministerial level in an extraordinary session on Wednesday, 17 January 2024, held by videolink and chaired by the Republic of Yemen (pro tempore Chair of the Council at the ministerial level),

Having reviewed:

- The note of the secretariat,
- The previous resolutions of the Council,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

Having regard to the latest developments in Somalia,

Having heard the statement of the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia during the opening session,

Decides to:

1. *Affirm* its support for the security, stability, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia, and for the Federal Government of Somalia as it strives to safeguard the sovereignty of Somalia by land, sea and air; *reaffirm* the legitimate right of the Federal Republic of Somalia to defend its territory in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant articles of the Charter of the League of Arab States; and *support* Somalia with regard to any measures that it decides to take in order to respond, within the framework of international law, to any attempted aggression against it;

2. *Express* its solidarity with Somalia and its full support for the position adopted by the Somali State and all its organs, which consider the memorandum of understanding signed on 1 January 2024 by the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the “Somaliland” region to be null and void and unacceptable, and a flagrant violation of the principles of international law, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia, good-neighbourly relations, peaceful coexistence and stability in the region; and *reject* that memorandum and any legal, political, commercial or military implications arising therefrom;

3. *Reject* categorically any actions that undermine or violate the sovereignty of the Somali State, or that are aimed at taking advantage of the delicate internal situation in Somalia or the stalled intra-Somali negotiations regarding the relationship of the Somali regions with the Federal Government by carving off parts of the territory of Somalia, in violation of the rules and principles of international law, and thereby threatening the unity of the Somali State as a whole;

4. *Support* the efforts of the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia to resort to the International Court of Justice with a view to having that action condemned as a blatant aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia;

5. *Reject* categorically any attempt to benefit from the aforementioned memorandum of understanding, which the Somali State considers to be null and void and unacceptable, by creating a new geopolitical reality in the Gulf of Aden, off the Somali coasts and in the Red Sea; and *consider* it to be a threat to Arab national security and navigation in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden;

6. *Reaffirm* the longstanding Arab position that the “Somaliland” region is an integral part of the Federal Republic of Somalia, in accordance with the Charter and of the League of Arab States and its principles and the Charter of the United Nations, and that any arrangements relating to that region should be the outcome of political dialogue among the Somali people;

7. *Emphasize* that this negative development demonstrates that the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is harming security and stability in the region and threatening regional peace and security, in violation of the principles and Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the League of Arab States, and that it is not acting in a good-neighbourly manner;

8. *Request* the Arab member of the Security Council to mobilize, in coordination with the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia, support for the adoption of such resolutions as are needed to affirm the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia, and to reject and nullify the memorandum of understanding and consider it as being void and a threat to international and regional peace and security;

9. *Instruct* the councils of Arab ambassadors in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Brussels, Addis Ababa, Washington, London, Paris, Beijing and Moscow to take the steps needed to transmit the present resolution to the ministries of foreign affairs and the relevant agencies in those countries, as well as international organizations that have a presence in those cities, and to make clear the threat that the memorandum of understanding poses to regional and international peace and security; and also *instruct* Arab permanent representatives to the African Union to work in coordination with Somalia with a view to bringing the matter before the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

10. *Request* the Secretary-General to form a working group at the ministerial level to monitor implementation of the draft resolution, including by reaching out to the capitals of international and regional partners with regard to this matter;

11. *Request* the Secretary-General to communicate with the States members of the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission regarding the present resolution and the threat that this measure poses to regional and international peace and security, and to continue his efforts to monitor implementation of the resolution and submit a report in that regard to the Council of the League at its next session.

Resolution 8988 – extraordinary session –
second meeting – 17 January 2024

Explanatory note: Algeria affirms the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and respect for their sovereignty and independence, and rejects all foreign interference, by any party, in the affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia. In addition, it stresses the importance of avoiding any action that could provoke conflicts in the Arab world and Africa, as that would not serve the interest of integration and strategic cooperation between the Arab world and Africa. It also reaffirms the importance of consolidating the values of dialogue and negotiation as civilized methods of resolving disputes between countries, before resorting to any form of escalation, in particular given the significant efforts and diplomatic endeavours being made by the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to prevent any dangerous developments in the Horn of Africa.

Enclosure 2

Resolution 8989, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level at an extraordinary session held by videolink, concerning Iranian violations of the territorial sovereignty of Iraq

Iranian violations of the territorial sovereignty of Iraq

The Council of the League of Arab States, meeting at the ministerial level in an extraordinary session on Wednesday, 17 January 2024, held by videolink and chaired by the Republic of Yemen (pro tempore Chair of the Council at the ministerial level),

Having reviewed:

- Note No. 174/4/3 of 17 January 2024 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq,
- The previous resolutions of the Council,

Expressing its appreciation for the fact that Iraq honours all its obligations under international law and abides by the principles of good neighbourliness, which are enshrined in its Constitution,

In the light of recent developments in Iraq,

Having heard the statement of the head of the delegation of Iraq during the opening session,

Decides to:

1. *Condemn* strongly the bombing by Iran of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on Tuesday, 16 January 2024, which resulted in the death of several innocent civilians and the destruction of several civilian sites; and *regard* the attack as being a blatant aggression against the sovereignty of Iraq and the security of the Iraqi people, and a grave violation of the principles of good neighbourliness and international laws, instruments and norms;
2. *Reject* and *condemn* all justifications and pretexts offered by the Iranian Government, as they do not give any State the right to violate the sovereignty of another State and endanger the lives of its citizens, in contravention of the rules of international law and the Charter of the United Nations;
3. *Hold* Iran responsible for all the consequences and outcomes of this violation; and *consider* it to be a dangerous precedent, the repetition of which might disturb peace and security in the region in general;
4. *Reaffirm* the unity and territorial sovereignty of Iraq in the face of any external aggression or violation, and the right of the Republic of Iraq, as a founding member of the League of Arab States and a member of the United Nations, to resort to all diplomatic and legal means available under international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the League of Arab States in responding to such violations;
5. *Request* the Arab member of the Security Council to mobilize, in coordination with the Republic of Iraq, the support needed to ensure the adoption of resolutions condemning this aggression as a violation of the sovereignty Iraq and of the principle of good neighbourliness and international laws and norms;
6. *Instruct* the councils of Arab ambassadors in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Brussels, Washington, London, Paris, Beijing and Moscow to transmit the present

resolution to the relevant ministries of foreign affairs, as well as to international organizations that have a presence in those cities;

7. *Request* the Secretary-General to follow up on this matter and communicate with the States members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the present resolution, follow up on the complaint submitted by the Republic of Iraq to the Security Council and submit a report to the Council of the League at its next ordinary session.

Resolution 8989 – extraordinary session –
second meeting – 17 January 2024

Reservation of the Syrian Arab Republic

In the light of the procedural observations made by the Syrian Arab Republic during the meeting, regarding the manner in which it was held and the lack of compliance with the time limits set out in article 5 of the rules of procedure of the Council of the League, the Syrian Arab Republic registers its reservation to the final document adopted.
