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Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs: election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

Letter dated 12 November 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to inform you that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to advise you that Saudi Arabia will, regrettably, not be in a position to assume the seat on the Security Council to which it was elected on 17 October 2013, for the period 2014-2015. The reasons for this decision have been articulated in the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia dated 18 October 2013, a copy of which is enclosed (see annex).

In doing so, Saudi Arabia wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the United Nations and its various organizations and its appreciation of the valuable leadership that you are providing in world affairs. I assure you of my determination to work closely with you for the advancement of the cause of peace and development in the world.

(Signed) **Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to
the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 12 November 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saudi Arabia's apology for not accepting Security Council membership

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement after the election of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for two years. Following is the text of the statement:

First of all, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is pleased to extend its sincere thanks and deep gratitude to all countries that have given it their confidence by electing it as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the next two years.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a founding member of the United Nations, is proud of its full and permanent commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, believing that the commitment of all Member States, made honestly, truthfully and accurately, as agreed upon and stipulated in the Charter, is the real guarantee for world security and peace.

If the Member States of the United Nations consider winning membership in the Security Council, which is, according to the Charter of the Organization, the sole agency responsible for preserving world peace and security, as a high honour and a great responsibility for participating directly and effectively in the service of international issues, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the manner, mechanisms of action and double standards existing in the Security Council prevent it from performing its duties and assuming its responsibilities towards preserving international peace and security as required, leading to the continued disruption of peace and security, the expansion of the injustices against peoples, the violation of rights and the spread of conflicts and wars around the world.

In this regard, it is unfortunate that all international efforts that have been exerted in recent years, and in which Saudi Arabia participated very effectively, did not result in reaching the reforms required to be made to enable the Security Council to regain its desired role in the service of the issues of peace and security in the world.

The current continuation of the Palestinian cause without a just and lasting solution for 65 years, which resulted in several wars and threatened international peace and security, is irrefutable evidence and proof of the Security Council's inability to carry out its duties and assume its responsibilities.

The failure of the Security Council to make the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, whether because of its inability to subject the nuclear programmes of all countries in the region, without exception, to international control and inspection or to prevent any country in the region from possessing nuclear weapons, is additional irrefutable evidence and proof of its inability to carry out its duties and honour its responsibilities.

Allowing the ruling regime in Syria to kill and burn its people with chemical weapons while the world stands idly by, without applying deterrent sanctions

against the Damascus regime, is also irrefutable evidence and proof of the inability of the Security Council to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

Accordingly, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, based on the basis of its historical responsibilities towards its people, Arab and Islamic nations as well as towards the peoples aspiring to peace and stability all over the world, announces its apology for not accepting membership in the Security Council until the Council is reformed and enabled, effectively and practically, to carry out its duties and responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security.
