

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
16 September 2020

Original: English

Letter dated 16 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 September 2020 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, Fuad Hussein, conveying the wish of the Government of the Republic of Iraq to extend the mandate of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant for one year, until September 2021 (see annex).

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

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



Annex to the letter dated 16 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 16 September 2020 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

It gives me pleasure to convey to you the wish of the Government of Iraq that the mandate granted by the Security Council to the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant should be extended for a one-year period, ending on 21 September 2021, in accordance with the letter and spirit of Security Council resolution [2379 \(2017\)](#) and the conditions related to jurisdiction set out therein. The Team will continue to provide support and advice to promote accountability for crimes committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization by collecting and storing documentary and electronic evidence and transmitting that evidence to the Iraqi authorities within a specified period of time. It will also develop and build capacities and provide technical assistance, with a view to developing a national cohort that is specialized in this field.

I should like to inform you that Iraq will continue to work with the members of the Security Council and the Team over the term of the forthcoming mandate to achieve, as soon as possible and in accordance with a timeline, the goals and purposes for which that resolution was adopted, in order to bring to justice ISIL members who committed crimes and deliver justice to the victims' families. Forensic evidence must be handed over to the Iraqi authorities, as that will reassure the victims' families and demonstrate that the hand of justice will act swiftly and resolutely in order to punish the perpetrators. We should like to reaffirm that, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution [2379 \(2017\)](#), all evidence must be turned over to the Government of Iraq, with full respect for the sovereignty of Iraq and its jurisdiction over crimes committed in its territory and in accordance with its legislative principles. Any use of forensic evidence outside Iraqi jurisdiction must be approved by the Iraqi Government and take place with the full cooperation of and in coordination with the relevant Iraqi authorities and through the Iraqi steering committee.

(Signed) **Fuad Hussein**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq