



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2564 (2021), related to the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”, adopted on 25 February 2021. Resolution 2564 (2021) was adopted in accordance with the voting procedure set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), a procedure agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus-disease pandemic.

Pursuant to that procedure, I enclose herewith copies of the related documents:

My letter dated 24 February 2021 addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (annex I), putting to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/178 (see enclosure to annex I);

Letters received in response from the members of the Security Council indicating their national positions on the draft resolution (annexes II to XVI); and

Statements subsequently submitted by members of the Security Council providing explanations of their votes (annexes XVII to XX).

The present letter and its enclosures will be issued as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* **Barbara Woodward**  
President of the Security Council



## Annex I

### **Letter dated 24 February 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council**

In accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the members of the Security Council in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, as set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the members of the Council (S/2020/253), I would like to draw your attention to the following.

The members of the Council have discussed a draft resolution, submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”. That draft resolution, contained in document S/2021/178 and enclosed herewith, has been put into blue.

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I hereby put the above-mentioned draft resolution to a vote. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period for this draft resolution will begin at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 24 February 2021. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period will expire at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 25 February 2021.

Please submit your vote (in favour, against, or abstaining) on the draft resolution, as well as any possible explanation of vote, by sending a letter signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d'affaires a.i. within the non-extendable 24-hour voting period set out above to the Officer-in-Charge of the Security Council Affairs Division (SCAD/DPPA) in the United Nations Secretariat (sutterlin@un.org).

It is my intention to circulate a letter listing the outcome of the vote within three hours of the conclusion of the 24-hour voting period. I also intend to convene a video-teleconference of the Security Council to announce the outcome of the vote shortly after the conclusion of the voting period, on the afternoon of Thursday, 25 February 2021.

*(Signed)* **Barbara Woodward**  
President of the Security Council

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**Enclosure**

United Nations

S/2021/178

**Security Council**Provisional  
24 February 2021

Original: English

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**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:  
draft resolution***The Security Council,**Recalling* all its previous relevant resolutions and statements of its President concerning Yemen,*Reaffirming* its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Yemen,*Strongly condemning* the ongoing escalation in Marib, Yemen, including the Houthi operation on 7 February 2021, and the continuation of Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, including on Abha International Airport, on 10 February 2021, and calling for an immediate cessation of attacks without preconditions,*Stressing the need* for de-escalation across Yemen and a nationwide ceasefire, and calling for implementation of the Secretary General's Global Ceasefire call as detailed in resolution 2532 (2020), as well as his 25 March 2020 call for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Yemen,*Expressing* concern at the ongoing political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges in Yemen, including the ongoing violence and enforced disappearances, and threats arising from the illicit transfer, diversion, destabilising accumulation, and misuse of weapons,*Emphasising* the environmental and humanitarian risk and the need, without delay, for access of UN officials to inspect and maintain the Safer oil tanker, which is located in the Houthi-controlled North of Yemen, and stressing Houthi responsibility for the situation and for not responding to this major environmental and humanitarian risk, and *underscoring the need* for the Houthis to urgently facilitate unconditional and safe access for United Nations experts to conduct an assessment and repair mission without further delay, ensuring close cooperation with the United Nations,*Reiterating* its call for all parties in Yemen to adhere to resolving their differences through dialogue and consultation, reject acts of violence to achieve political goals, and refrain from provocation,*Reaffirming* the need for all parties to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law as applicable, and *underlining the need* to ensure accountability for

violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights in Yemen,

*Expressing* its support for and commitment to the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen in support of the Yemeni transition process, and an inclusive Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process, under UN auspices, with the full effective, and meaningful participation of women, and *affirming* the equality of the sexes and the need for full implementation of Yemen's National Action Plan in accordance with resolution 1325 (2000),

*Welcoming* the formation of the new cabinet of Yemen's government, under the provisions of the Riyadh Agreement, *calling* for the full implementation of the Riyadh Agreement, and *expressing* support for the cabinet's participation in the political process and *calling for* the swift resumption of talks between the parties, in full engagement with UN mediation efforts,

*Expressing its alarm* that areas of Yemen remain under the control of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and about the negative impact of their presence, violent extremist ideology and actions on stability in Yemen, the Middle East region, and the Horn of Africa, including the devastating humanitarian impact on the civilian populations, *expressing concern* at the increasing presence and future potential growth of the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) affiliates in Yemen, and *reaffirming* its resolve to address all aspects of the threat posed by AQAP, ISIL (Da'esh), and all other associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities,

*Recalling* the listing of AQAP and associated individuals on the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List and *stressing* in this regard the need for robust implementation of the measures in paragraph 1 of resolution 2368 (2017) as a significant tool in combating terrorist activity in Yemen,

*Noting* the critical importance of effective implementation of the sanctions regime imposed pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) and resolution 2216 (2015), including the key role that Member States from the region can play in this regard,

*Encouraging* efforts to further enhance cooperation,

*Condemning* in the strongest terms the attack on Aden airport on 30 December 2020, which killed twenty seven innocent civilians, including a Yemeni Deputy Minister and three humanitarian and health personnel, and *noting* the planned Panel of Expert reporting on the Aden attack,

*Welcoming* the work of the Panel of Experts on Yemen, established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), and which overcame the logistical challenges posed by Covid-19,

*Expressing grave concern* at the threat to peace and security in Yemen arising from the illicit transfer, destabilising accumulation, and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

*Recalling* the provisions of paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) imposing a targeted arms embargo, and *calling on* all Member States and other actors to comply with their obligations under the targeted arms embargo,

*Condemning* the increasing number of incidents off the coast of Yemen, including attacks on civilian and commercial ships, and expressing concern over maritime smuggling of arms and related materials into and out of Yemen in violation of the targeted arms embargo, which pose a significant risk to the maritime security of vessels in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea along the coast of Yemen,

*Condemning* in the strongest terms violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, as well as human rights abuses, including those involving conflict-related sexual violence in Houthi-controlled areas and recruitment and use of children in armed conflict across Yemen, as recorded in the Panel of Experts' final report (S/2021/79),

*Expressing alarm* over the obstacles that have been imposed on the work and access of the Panel of Experts during the course of its last mandate,

*Expressing serious concern* at the devastating humanitarian situation in Yemen, including the growing risk of large-scale famine and the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and all instances of undue hindrances to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, including the recent interference in aid operations in Houthi-controlled areas as well as obstacles and the undue limitations on the delivery of vital goods to the civilian population occurring throughout Yemen, which is preventing vulnerable people from receiving the assistance they need to survive,

*Emphasising* the necessity of discussion by the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 2140 (2014) ("the Committee") of the recommendations contained in the Panel of Experts reports,

*Determining* that the situation in Yemen continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

*Acting* under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for the full and timely implementation of the political transition following the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, in line with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and Implementation Mechanism, and in accordance with its previous relevant resolutions, and with regard to the expectations of the Yemeni people;

2. *Decides* to renew until 28 February 2022 the measures imposed by paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014), reaffirms the provisions of paragraphs 12, 13, 14 and 16 of resolution 2140 (2015), and *further reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 14 to 17 of resolution 2216 (2015);

3. *Decides* that the individual listed in the annex of this resolution shall be subject to the measures imposed by paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015);

4. *Emphasising* the importance of facilitating humanitarian assistance, *reaffirms its decision* that the Committee established in paragraph 19 of resolution 2140 (2014) (hereafter, the "Committee") may, on a case-by-case basis, exempt any activity from the sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council in resolutions 2140 (2014) and 2216 (2015) if the Committee determines that such an exemption is necessary to facilitate the work of the United Nations and other humanitarian organisations in Yemen or for any other purpose consistent with the objectives of these resolutions;

5. Encourages Member States to support capacity building efforts of the Yemeni Coast Guard to effectively implement the measures imposed by paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015), with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen;

#### **Designation Criteria**

6. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) shall apply to individuals or

entities designated by the Committee, or listed in the annex to resolution 2216 (2015) as engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Yemen;

7. *Reaffirms* the designation criteria set out in paragraph 17 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 19 of resolution 2216 (2015);

8. *Affirms* that sexual violence in armed conflict, or the recruitment or use of children in armed conflict in violation of international law, could constitute an act, as specified in paragraph 18 (c) of resolution 2140 (2014), and therefore a sanctionable act of engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Yemen, as described in paragraph 17 of that resolution;

### **Reporting**

9. *Decides* to extend until 28 March 2022 the mandate of the Panel of Experts as set out in paragraph 21 of resolution 2140 (2014), and paragraph 21 of resolution 2216 (2015), *expresses its intention* to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding the further extension no later than 28 February 2022, and *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures as expeditiously as possible to re-establish the Panel of Experts, in consultation with the Committee until 28 March 2022 drawing, as appropriate, on the expertise of the members of the Panel established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014);

10. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide a mid-term update to the Committee no later than 28 July 2021, and a final report no later than 28 January 2022 to the Security Council, after discussion with the Committee, and also that they include information, as appropriate, inter alia about the recent trend in the illicit transfer and diversion of conventional weapons and about the commercially available components which have been used by individuals or entities designated by the Committee to assemble unmanned aerial vehicles, water-borne improvised explosive devices, and other weapon systems, and bearing in mind that this request should not have an adverse impact on humanitarian assistance or legitimate commercial activities;

11. *Directs* the Panel to cooperate with other relevant expert groups established by the Security Council to support the work of its Sanctions Committees, in particular the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established by resolution 1526 (2004) and extended by resolution 2368 (2017);

12. *Urges* all parties and all Member States, as well as international, regional and subregional organisations to ensure cooperation with the Panel of Experts, and *further urges* all Member States involved to ensure the safety of the members of the Panel of Experts and unhindered access, in particular to persons, documents and sites, in order for the Panel of Experts to execute its mandate;

13. *Emphasises* the importance of holding consultations with concerned Member States, as may be necessary, in order to ensure full implementation of the measures set forth in this resolution;

14. *Recalls* the Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions report (S/2006/997) on best practices and methods, including paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 that discuss possible steps for clarifying methodological standards for monitoring mechanisms;

15. *Reaffirms* its intention to keep the situation in Yemen under continuous review and its readiness to review the appropriateness of the measures contained in

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this resolution, including the strengthening, modification, suspension or lifting of the measures, as may be needed at any time in light of developments;

16. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Annex**

Sultan Saleh Aida Aida Zabin

Sultan Saleh Aida Aida Zabin has engaged in acts that threaten the peace, security and stability of Yemen, including violations of applicable international humanitarian law and human rights abuses in Yemen,

Sultan Saleh Aida Aida Zabin is the director of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Sanaa. He has played a prominent role in a policy of intimidation and use of systematic arrest, detention, torture, sexual violence and rape against politically active women. Zabin as director for CID is directly responsible for, or by virtue of his authority responsible for, and complicit in the use of multiple places of detention including house arrest, police stations, formal prisons and detention centres and undisclosed detention centres. In these sites, women, including at least one minor, were forcibly disappeared, repeatedly interrogated, raped, tortured, denied timely medical treatment and subjected to forced labour. Zabin himself directly inflicted torture in some cases.

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## Annex II

### **Letter dated 24 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I thank you and your team for the continued strong support in facilitating the voting procedure.

Please be kindly informed that China votes in favour of the draft resolution (S/20211178) submitted by the United Kingdom on Yemen.

*(Signed)* **Zhang Jun**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

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**Annex III****Letter dated 24 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to inform, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, that my delegation votes in favour of the Security Council draft resolution, submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the renewal of the sanctions regime related to Yemen and the extension of the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Yemen, contained in document S/2021/178.

*(Signed)* **Sven Jürgenson**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations

**Annex IV**

**Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: French]

I refer to the letter dated 24 February 2021 calling on the members of the Security Council to vote on the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”, put into blue under the symbol S/2021/178.

France votes in favour.

(Signed) Nicolas **de Rivière**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

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**Annex V****Letter dated 24 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 24 February 2021 opening the voting procedure on the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/178, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council in place for the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic, outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 by the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that India votes in favour of the draft resolution.

*(Signed)* T. S. **Tirumurti**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

## Annex VI

### **Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 24 February 2021 on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East” (S/2021/178).

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council for the duration of the restrictions of movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic, outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that Ireland votes in favour of the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/178.

*(Signed)* Geraldine **Byrne Nason**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

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**Annex VII****Letter dated 24 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution (S/2021/178) submitted by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”

In this respect, I wish to inform you that Kenya votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* **Martin Kimani**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations

## **Annex VIII**

### **Letter dated 24 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the letter dated 24 February 2021 regarding the draft resolution in connection with agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”, submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and contained in document S/2021/178.

In accordance with the procedure outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253) for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council, I have the honour to inform you that Mexico votes in favour of the aforementioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* **Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

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**Annex IX****Letter dated 24 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing in response to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 24 February 2021 calling on the members of the Council to indicate their votes on the draft resolution (S/2021/178) submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”.

In accordance with the agreed temporary procedures for the adoption of draft resolutions during the coronavirus disease pandemic restrictions, I have the honour to indicate that the Republic of the Niger decides to in favour of the aforementioned draft resolution

*(Signed)* Abdou **Abarry**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations

**Annex X**

**Letter dated 24 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 24 February 2021 relating to the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/178 in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”.

In accordance with the procedure set forth for the adoption of draft resolutions under the current circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, I am pleased to inform you that Norway votes in favour of the draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Mona **Juul**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

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**Annex XI****Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 24 February 2021 on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “The Situation in the Middle East” (S/2021/178).

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council being in place during the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic, outlined in a letter by the President of the Security Council of 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Federation abstains in the voting on draft resolution S/2021/178. Please find attached an explanation of vote in this regard.

*(Signed)* Vassily **Nebenzia**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

## **Annex XII**

### **Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution (S/2021/178) submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the agenda item “The Situation in the Middle East.”

In this respect, I wish to inform that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Inga Rhonda **King**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the  
United Nations

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**Annex XIII****Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Further to the letter dated 24 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in her capacity as President of the Security Council, regarding the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”, as contained in document S/2021/178, I would like to inform you that Tunisia votes in favour of the draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Tarek **Ladeb**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

**Annex XIV**

**Letter dated 25 February 2021 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**

With reference to the letter from the President of the Security Council of 24 February 2021, the United Kingdom votes in favour of draft resolution S/2021/178, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”.

*(Signed)* Barbara **Woodward**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

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**Annex XV****Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East” (S/2021/178), the United States of America votes in favour.

*(Signed)* Richard M. Mills  
Ambassador  
Acting Permanent Representative of the United States of America  
to the United Nations

**Annex XVI**

**Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

In reference to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 24 February 2021 relating to the draft resolution under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East” as contained in document S/2021/178, I would like to hereby inform you that Viet Nam votes in favour of the said draft resolution.

*(Signed)* **Dang Dinh Quy**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations

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**Annex XVII****Statement by the Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations**

Estonia is making the current statement in explanation of its vote on resolution 2564 (2021), of 25 February 2021.

Estonia welcomes the adoption of the resolution on the renewal of the sanctions regime related to Yemen and the extension of the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Yemen. We consider the sanctions regime and the work of the Panel of Experts on Yemen essential elements in contributing to the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Yemen.

We highly value the efforts of the United Kingdom as penholder and the cooperation of all Council colleagues who engaged in the discussions on the text. We consider it important that the resolution underlines the need for accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights.

We welcome the designation of an individual who has engaged in violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses in Yemen, including intimidation and use of systematic arrest, detention, torture, sexual violence and rape against politically active women.

We also welcome the fact that the text expresses support for, and a commitment to, the participation of women in the political process. In line with the Security Council decisions to date, we underline that the participation of women in such processes should be full, equal and meaningful.

We note that the Security Council has consistently referred to “gender equality” when addressing issues related to women and peace and security. For that reason, we regret the inclusion of the reference to “the equality of the sexes”, which diverges from agreed Council usage. We note that our future discussions should be based on the established language on gender equality.

## **Annex XVIII**

### **Statement by the Permanent Missions of Ireland and Mexico to the United Nations**

[Original: English and Spanish]

We welcome the adoption today of resolution 2564 (2021), on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), which Ireland and Mexico voted in favour of. Furthermore, we express appreciation for the efforts of the United Kingdom as penholder.

Ireland and Mexico strongly support the work of the 2140 Committee and regard the sanctions regime as an important tool of the Council to contribute to a solution to the conflict and restore peace, security and stability in Yemen.

We welcome the designation, for the first time in the context of Yemen, of an individual who has played a prominent role in a policy of intimidation and the use of systematic arrest, detention, torture, sexual violence and rape against politically active women. We also welcome the inclusion of language on accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, as well as language on the participation of women in the political process.

However, we regret that a reference to “the equality of the sexes” was included in the resolution. “Gender equality” is the long-established agreed language of the Security Council on matters of women and peace and security. We emphasize that “gender equality” must form the basis of any future discussions.

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**Annex XIX****Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations**

The Russian Federation abstained in the voting on the sanctions resolution 2564 (2021), regarding Yemen, put forward by the United Kingdom, due to the fact that not all of our concerns were met.

During consultations on the draft resolution, our delegation clearly pointed out a number of newly introduced elements that we could not agree to and presented proposals aimed at amending the imbalanced and selective nature of the text. Some of the provisions included in the draft resolution were not properly discussed within the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014). While constructively engaging with other members of the Security Council, we promoted the idea that every step of this body should envisage the strategic goal of reaching a comprehensive settlement in Yemen. We believe that any sanctions regime should not become a goal in itself but rather serve the task of ending conflicts. We therefore reiterate our strong support for the United Nations efforts to facilitate political dialogue and promote peace in Yemen. Unfortunately, we have doubts that the resolution will be of any help to those efforts.

**Annex XX****Statement by the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations**

To end the conflict in Yemen, the international community must seek a lasting political solution and humanitarian relief for the Yemeni people. Resolution 2564 (2021), adopted today, helps us move in that direction.

Security Council sanctions on Yemen are a necessary tool to apply pressure on the Houthis to cease all military operations and turn to negotiations. We thank the United Kingdom for leading the effort for those sanctions and the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Yemen, and we urge all States Members of the United Nations to implement their sanctions obligations related to Yemen.

The United States remains clear-eyed about the Houthis' malign actions and their aggression, particularly in their current military offensive against Ma'arib. Likewise, we hold them responsible for attacks and threats against civilian and commercial shipping, which must cease.

We are disappointed that the Security Council could not speak with one voice today regarding the responsibility that the Houthis bear, in both actions and intransigence, for prolonging this conflict and exacting serious humanitarian costs.

If the Houthis are serious about a negotiated political solution, they must cease all military advances and refrain from other destabilizing and potentially lethal actions, including cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia. They must commit to constructively participating in the United Nations-led political process and engage seriously in the diplomatic effort led by Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen Martin Griffiths and United States Special Envoy for Yemen Tim Lenderking.

The United States remains committed to helping its partners in the Gulf defend themselves, including against threats arising from Yemen, many of which are carried out with the support of Iran.

It is imperative that all States Members of the United Nations implement their Security Council sanctions obligations and refrain from taking actions that may undermine the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen.

Finally, we welcome the decision of the Security Council to designate Sultan Zabin in this resolution. Zabin is responsible for the implementation of a policy of the Sana'a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) that resulted in numerous reported cases of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, sexual violence, rape, torture and other cruel treatment utilized by the Sana'a CID against politically active women who opposed the Houthis. We urge all Member States to implement their sanctions obligations with regard to Zabin and all other individuals designated on the Yemen sanctions list.

The United States, alongside the United Nations and others, will continue to work to end the war and do its part to help ease the suffering of the Yemeni people.

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