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Provisional

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Mukongo.	(Democratic Republic of the Congo)
<i>Members:</i>	Bahrain	Mr. Al Zayani/Mr. Alrowaiei
	China	Mr. Fu Cong
	Colombia	Mrs. Zalabata Torres
	Denmark	Ms. Landi
	France	Mr. Bonnafont
	Greece.....	Mrs. Balta
	Latvia.....	Ms. Pavļuta-Deslandes
	Liberia	Mr. Brown II
	Pakistan.....	Mr. Ahmad
	Panama	Mr. Moscoso
	Russian Federation	Ms. Evstigneeva
	Somalia	Mr. Mohamed Yusuf
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....	Mr. Kariuki
	United States of America.....	Mr. Waltz

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Her Excellency Mrs. Leonor Zalabata Torres, Permanent Representative of Colombia, for her service as President of the Council for the month of June. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Zalabata Torres and her team for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Ms. Spehar.

Ms. Spehar: Last weekend witnessed a troubling resurgence of military confrontations between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, even as mediation efforts continued in Doha under the auspices of Qatar to advance the implementation of the 17 June Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Secretary-General welcomes the joint decision to de-escalate and exercise restraint. This decision offers a measure of hope that dialogue and diplomacy can regain momentum. At the same time, the events of the weekend serve as a stark reminder of the fragility of the current situation and the acute risks of further escalation.

While developments surrounding the recent escalation have been widely reported, allow me to provide a concise overview of the facts as we understand them.

On 25 June, an Iranian drone struck the Singapore-flagged cargo *MV Ever Lovely* as it attempted to transit the Strait of Hormuz. The International Maritime Organization is reviewing the incident. Around the same time, a drone struck the Panama-flagged *MT Kiku* near the Strait, as it transited along a route along the coast of Oman. The United States described these incidents as violations of the Memorandum of Understanding and as threats to freedom of navigation. The International Maritime Organization temporarily paused its evacuation corridor for stranded seafarers and vessels in the region.

On 26 June, the United States carried out strikes on Iran's coastal military infrastructure in Hormozgan Province, followed by a second wave of strikes the following day. The United States military characterized these actions as a "direct response to continued Iranian aggression against commercial shipping", adding that Iran had "elected not to" comply with the agreed ceasefire. The Iranian Foreign Ministry characterized the strikes as a "blatant violation" of the Memorandum of Understanding, including its ceasefire-related provisions.

Overnight into 28 June, Iran said it had targeted United States military infrastructure in the Gulf, launching ballistic missiles and armed drones. According to Iranian statements, targets included Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait and the United States Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain. Iran warned that further “violations of the ceasefire” would result in a “complete halt of ongoing diplomatic processes”, while also threatening a “crushing response” to any additional United States military action.

Later on 28 June, the United States conducted further strikes on Iran. The President of the United States warned of additional escalation should Iran fail to comply with the ceasefire, indicating a readiness to intensify military action if necessary. The United States reported no casualties among its personnel and no damage to its installations in Bahrain and Kuwait. The Bahrain defence force reported intercepting several Iranian aerial threats. Bahrain’s Interior Ministry also reported that a residential building had been damaged; no casualties were reported. This followed an earlier round of Iranian drone strikes on Bahraini territory on 27 June. In Kuwait, authorities reported intercepting two ballistic missiles in their airspace on 28 June, following earlier defensive responses to missile and drone threats.

The Secretary-General unequivocally condemns all attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure. Such actions are unacceptable. Residential areas, ports, energy facilities, commercial vessels and maritime personnel must be protected.

The Secretary-General has consistently underscored the importance of upholding navigational rights. Merchant shipping should not be used as a tool of pressure, and the security of international maritime routes must not be compromised. While maritime traffic is below pre-crisis levels, it continues, reflecting efforts to stabilize global supply routes. Every effort must be made to restore flows of oil, gas, fertilizer and other critical commodities, thereby alleviating pressures on the global economy. We are encouraged by ongoing discussions aimed at strengthening guarantees for safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. In this regard, we note that Iran and Oman held talks on 29 June on the implementation of relevant provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding.

On 28 June, the United States and Iran agreed to cease attacks against one another. It was further announced that Qatar would host indirect talks between the parties in Doha starting on 30 June, on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. These talks are ongoing. The United Nations welcomes the resumption of dialogue between the United States and Iran and encourages both sides to sustain engagement to advance the implementation of the 17 June Memorandum of Understanding. The breadth of the regional diplomatic engagement, including efforts by Qatar, Pakistan, Oman and others, reflects the gravity of this moment. Continued coordination and constructive dialogue will be essential, both to manage immediate tensions and to lay the groundwork for longer-term confidence-building measures.

Each new strike, each new interception, each new maritime incident increases the risk of miscalculation. After months of dangerous escalation, a return to full-scale hostilities would have catastrophic consequences — for the peoples of the region, for international peace and security and for the global economy. We therefore urge all parties to act with maximum restraint, to avoid actions that could undermine the ceasefire or close the door to diplomacy and to comply fully with their obligations under international law, including the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure and the preservation of freedom of navigation.

Sustained political will and continued engagement will be critical to overcoming the current challenges and achieving a mutually acceptable and lasting agreement. At this juncture, the unified support of the Council for diplomacy is more important than ever.

The United Nations remains committed to supporting all efforts to prevent a return to conflict, restore stability and advance a comprehensive and durable resolution of this conflict.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ms. Spehar for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

I now call on His Excellency Mr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Mr. Al Zayani (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset of my statement, I am pleased to congratulate the Democratic Republic of the Congo on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I would also like to thank the Republic of Colombia for its previous presidency. I thank Her Excellency the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support for her valuable briefing.

I thank the Council for responding to the request to convene this emergency meeting. I also thank the Council for its response and for the attendance of the participating States, particularly our brothers in the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

I speak today on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain, a State that has been directly targeted and affected by renewed, treacherous Iranian aggression this week, involving ballistic missiles and armed drones, which targeted vital areas populated by civilians, despite the fact that on 17 June Iran signed the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding with the United States, which explicitly stipulated a cessation of military operations on all fronts.

The Kingdom took the initiative to request this emergency session, recognizing the Council's primary responsibility in safeguarding international peace and security, and confident that the Council — which condemned the Iranian attacks on the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Jordan in its resolution 2817 (2026) — will not stand idly by in the face of this blatant challenge to its authority.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has recently been subjected not to a passing incident, but to a continuous series of attacks that began on 28 February and continued even after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, and which continue to this day. The Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the world's most densely populated countries — the most densely populated in the Arab world and the third most densely populated globally — where industrial and critical infrastructure intermingle with residential neighbourhoods within a limited area. During this period, its territory has been targeted in a total of 808 attacks, including 203 ballistic missiles and 605 armed drones. The aggressors deliberately targeted civilian infrastructure, vital facilities and residential areas, resulting in three martyrs and 465 injured among unarmed civilians — both citizens and residents — including women and children. Had it not been for the pre-emptive measures taken by the relevant authorities, the losses would have been far more severe.

The consequences of these attacks were not limited to material and human losses; they extended to terrorizing innocent people, instilling fear in the hearts of the population and disrupting their normal lives — acts prohibited by international humanitarian law, which criminalizes acts whose primary purpose is to instil terror among civilians. A closer examination of the selection of these targets and the repeated targeting of specific locations reveals that these attacks were neither random nor accidental, but rather indicative of deliberate, premeditated targeting carried out in accordance with a systematic approach, not spontaneous actions. The very fact of this repetition dispels any doubt and proves intent.

The facts presented, together with the reality on the ground, refute the claim that these attacks are directed at military rather than civilian targets. What is the justification for targeting a desalination plant, densely populated residential areas, civilian installations and vital infrastructure? The Kingdom has documented every attack from the moment it took place, and has submitted official letters, supported by comprehensive evidence, to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, leaving no room for allegations of exaggeration or politicization.

In this context, the Kingdom distributed to the members of the Council copies of photographic evidence illustrating some of these attacks, and I encourage all members to review them. This documentation illustrates the impact of attacks on vital industrial facilities, occupied residential buildings and civilian and education facilities. Here it is for all to see. These images are but a small sample of the overall destruction. Yet, they suffice to reveal the true nature of what happened: it was civilian lives that were being targeted deliberately, not military objects, as Iran falsely claimed.

Perhaps the most alarming example of this pattern occurred in the early hours of 5 April, when an Iranian drone targeted operational units at the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company in Sitrah, striking an ammonia storage tank located within a populated residential area. Had it not been for precautionary measures and the decision to empty the tank beforehand, the release of toxic ammonia gas could have caused a major humanitarian catastrophe. To contain the danger, it was necessary to establish a precautionary exclusion zone of two kilometres and to evacuate residents from the area. Targeting a facility containing hazardous substances within a populated civilian area amounts to a war crime — a characterization publicly declared by the national authorities — and is expressly prohibited under Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

As for the claim that this aggression is merely a response to the acts of another party, Bahrain is an independent State that is not involved in any conflict. Any State that has a dispute with another must address it directly, not transfer its consequences onto civilians in a third State. Nor is this aggression directed solely against Bahrain. It threatens the security of the entire region. It has coincided with attacks in the vicinity of Kuwait International Airport, one of the most important civilian facilities in the fraternal State of Kuwait, posing a grave threat to civil aviation safety and to the security of air navigation. These are matters that should be of serious concern to the Council.

The attacks carried out by Iran and its proxies are not confined to any single State. The Council previously convened an emergency meeting at Bahrain's request (see S/PV.10153), following a drone attack on the Barakah nuclear power plant in the fraternal United Arab Emirates. The attack caused a fire in an electrical generator located outside the perimeter of the power plant and brought the region to the brink of a nuclear safety disaster. The Council condemned that attack as a flagrant violation of international law. Taken together, the pattern emerges clearly, leaving no room for doubt: from a chemical facility to a civilian airport to a nuclear power station. These are not military targets being attacked, as Iran claims, but part of a systematic campaign against the critical infrastructure upon which civilian life in our countries depends. These attacks constitute a clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 2817 (2026), which was supported by 136 Member States. Even more troubling, the attacks continued after Iran committed, under the Memorandum of Understanding, to a permanent cessation of military operations, only to breach that commitment within days.

This is not an isolated incident. It is part of a recurring pattern of failing to honour international commitments, the lesson being that what matters is not who signs an agreement, but who abides by it.

In view of the foregoing, the Kingdom's main demand is that these attacks cease immediately and completely. The Kingdom therefore calls for renewed condemnation of the repeated Iranian attacks, for the Iranian regime to be compelled to stop those attacks immediately and comply fully with resolution 2817 (2026) and with its obligations under international law, and for an effective mechanism to be established to monitor implementation and ensure accountability. The Kingdom reaffirms its legitimate right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, while remaining fully committed to exercising the utmost restraint and to pursuing peaceful solutions.

The credibility of the Council is measured by its ability to protect peaceful nations and deter aggressors. The value of its resolutions lies not in their adoption, but in their implementation. What value does a resolution have if its violation carries no consequences? The long and the short of it is simply that these attacks must stop immediately. We are confident that the Council will rise to that responsibility.

Mrs. Balta (Greece) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July, to wish you every success and to assure you that you can count on our constructive engagement. I would like to congratulate Colombia on its successful presidency during the month of June.

(*spoke in English*)

I thank Assistant Secretary-General Elizabeth Spehar, for her briefing.

Greece is deeply alarmed by the latest missile and drone attacks reportedly directed by Iran against the Kingdom of Bahrain and Kuwait. We unequivocally condemn these attacks and express our full solidarity with Bahrain and with all countries in the region that continue to be targeted. Our partners of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) did not seek to be drawn into this conflict and should not be exposed to attacks on their territory, their people or their critical infrastructure. These actions are a clear violation of resolution 2817 (2026), the Charter of the United Nations and international law. From the outset, Greece has stood by her GCC partners. Moreover, in this new environment in the Middle East, GCC countries are indispensable partners in collectively acting and shaping a regional security architecture that will ensure long-term security and stability, thus safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bahrain and other countries in the region.

The ceasefire agreements in the region continue to be fragile, and risks of further escalation remain high. Greece strongly supports the ongoing diplomatic efforts, in particular the negotiations between the United States and Iran, so as to create the conditions for sustained de-escalation, address legitimate security concerns and bring a stable and lasting peace in the region. At the same time, we strongly believe that Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon. Preservation of the non-proliferation regime is a precondition for sustainable stability. Full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), transparency, compliance with safeguards and verification are essential to rebuild trust and ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We call for a swift resumption of cooperation between Iran and the IAEA, including through a visit by IAEA inspectors to Iran as soon as possible. Diplomacy must remain the path to be followed in order to produce an effective, verifiable and durable outcome.

Lastly, Greece attaches paramount importance to maritime security and freedom of navigation. The Strait of Hormuz must immediately return to the status quo ante of safe, normal and unimpeded passage. All vessels should enjoy the right of transit passage in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, without any form of obstruction, intimidation or interference, including mines, unlawful

fees, tolling or other restrictions, including after the 60-day period. The Strait should not be used as a bargaining chip in current negotiations and beyond, as disruptions in the Strait affect not only the countries of the region but also global trade, energy security, food security and international peace and security. The implementation of the agreement will contribute to the gradual normalization of maritime traffic and the restoration of confidence in international shipping.

At this critical juncture, the Security Council must send a clear and united message: attacks against countries of the region must stop; resolution 2817 (2026) must be fully implemented; maritime security and freedom of navigation must be safeguarded, and diplomacy must prevail.

Mr. Kariuki (United Kingdom): Let me start by congratulating the Democratic Republic of the Congo on assuming the presidency for the month of July. It can count on our support. I also thank the delegation of Colombia for its excellent stewardship of the Council for the month of June. I thank Assistant Secretary-General Spehar for briefing us today, and I welcome Minister for Foreign Affairs Al Zayani of Bahrain back to the Council and the representative of Kuwait.

The United Kingdom strongly condemns Iran's reckless attacks against Bahrain and Kuwait and on international shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

First, these attacks directly contravene resolution 2817 (2026), put civilian lives in danger and risk destabilizing an already fragile region. We stand in solidarity with Bahrain, Kuwait and all our partners across the Gulf. The United Kingdom remains committed to regional security and stability, and we will continue to provide practical support to strengthen the defence and security of our partners.

Secondly, the United Kingdom gives its strong backing to the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) efforts to evacuate vessels and seafarers, which have seen a number of vessels able to safely exit the Strait, some after months of being stranded. The IMO had to pause its efforts as a direct result of these attacks, and we hope it will be able to resume its work as soon as possible. We call for the right of transit passage to be fully restored in the Strait of Hormuz in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is critical that the Strait be free from the threat of violence and any form of tolls or unlawful impediments and that all parties comply with their obligations under international law. The United Kingdom is committed to playing its part to achieve this, including through a strictly defensive and independent multinational military mission, led jointly with our French partners to provide reassurance to commercial shipping.

Lastly, the United Kingdom welcomes and supports the implementation of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ongoing negotiations. We recognize this as a moment of opportunity to restore stability, not only for the region but also for the global economy. It is essential that global security and economic interests be safeguarded under a final agreement.

Ms. Landi (Denmark): We congratulate the Democratic Republic of the Congo on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. It can count on our support. We also thank Colombia for steering us through a very busy June. Let me also thank Assistant Secretary-General Elizabeth Spehar for her briefing.

Denmark strongly condemns Iran's recent drone and missile attack against Bahrain and Kuwait and in the Strait of Hormuz. We stand in full solidarity with the people of Bahrain and Kuwait and all countries in the region that have been targeted by Iran's indiscriminate attacks.

The recent attacks by Iran are unacceptable. They pose a threat to the safety and stability of the entire region. They are putting civilian lives at risk and undermining efforts to achieve peace and security, while also negatively affecting freedom of navigation. We reiterate our call for de-escalation and our call for all parties to show maximum restraint and comply with international law, including international humanitarian law. Resolutions of the Council must also be respected. In resolution 2817 (2026), the Security Council demanded the immediate cessation of all attacks by Iran against countries of the region. Denmark urgently calls for its full implementation.

These attacks risk destabilizing an already volatile situation. This not only affects civilians across the Middle East but also reverberates far beyond, as we have seen with Iran's unlawful closure of the Strait of Hormuz. As a maritime nation, Denmark has continuously called for respect for freedom of navigation. Iran's actions in and around the Strait of Hormuz have led to food shortages, rises in energy prices and other adverse effects across the world. They also undermine international efforts to restore regional security. Denmark welcomes the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also thank Pakistan, Qatar and all other mediators for their efforts. This agreement represents a moment of opportunity to restore regional stability, fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz with safe passage and ensure that Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon. It is vital that the ceasefire be sustained, and we encourage the parties to continue negotiations within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding to achieve a permanent end to this war.

In closing, we reiterate our call for de-escalation and a durable solution. Denmark remains committed to ensuring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and to supporting efforts to safeguard peace, security and stability in the Middle East and beyond.

Mr. Moscoso (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, for her briefing. We also welcome His Excellency Mr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain. We also recognize the presence of the representatives of the State of Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran, who are with us at this meeting.

We regret the fact that the reason for this meeting is another indiscriminate attack against the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Kuwait, perpetrated in open violation of their sovereignty and territorial integrity and in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. These events once again put the civilian population at risk and fuel regional instability, which is already in a fragile state. We cannot allow these acts to be normalized. Respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the prohibition of the use or threat of use of force are fundamental principles of the international order and must be respected by all States, without exception.

It is equally worrying that the Council's decisions continue to be ignored. Resolution 2817 (2026), backed by 136 States, clearly demands that the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately and unconditionally cease any provocation or threat against neighbouring States. Failure to comply with this resolution not only weakens the authority of the Security Council but also undermines regional and international efforts aimed at reaching a lasting solution. We therefore call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply fully with its obligations under international law and Council resolutions, to cease any action or threat that could aggravate the situation and to opt for dialogue and diplomacy as the only path to preserving international peace and security.

It is essential to fully restore the safety of navigation in the region, as a condition for the normalization of international trade and the stability of global supply chains. In this regard, we reiterate our firm commitment to freedom of navigation and to full respect

for the international law of the sea, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the legal framework of which forms the basis of the order of the oceans and guarantees rights and obligations that are essential to international maritime security.

Panama condemns in the strongest terms the recent attack on a Panama-flagged vessel on 27 June in the Strait of Hormuz, which was carrying approximately 2 million barrels of crude oil. This completely unacceptable event constitutes a grave threat to international maritime security. We demand full respect for international law and the safety of seafarers. We also recognize and support the work of the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, Arsenio Domínguez, and the Organization's Secretariat, whose efforts have helped to facilitate the safe evacuation of 115 ships and approximately 2,500 seafarers from the Strait of Hormuz. We fully trust that the ongoing diplomatic efforts will make it possible to move towards the full implementation of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a constructive step towards de-escalation and regional stability.

Ms. Evstigneeva (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, we would like to thank the Colombian delegation for its presidency of the Security Council in June. We would also like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. We wish our colleagues from the Democratic Republic of the Congo every success in this role. They can count on our full support. We welcome the participation in today's meeting of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, His Excellency Mr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani. We thank Assistant Secretary-General Elizabeth Spehar for her briefing.

Since the very outset of the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East in late February, the Russian Federation has maintained a principled and objective stance regarding the developments there. Our country has consistently condemned the United States-Israeli aggression against Iran, emphasized that strikes against the civilian infrastructure in any country of the region are unacceptable and stressed the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States concerned. We are in favour of resolving the situation through political and diplomatic channels. There is no alternative to this, nor can there be any.

In this context, Russia welcomed the agreement to end the military conflict reached between the United States and Iran through the vigorous and effective mediation of Pakistan and Qatar. The signed Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran paved the way for further negotiations and instilled hope for the establishment of a lasting peace. However, late last week, we witnessed an exchange of strikes that could have threatened the ongoing diplomatic efforts. As far as we can tell from the information we are receiving, first came the strike targeting a Panamanian-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, in an attack allegedly carried out by Iranian forces. Then, the United States hit targets related to military intelligence and communications, uncrewed aerial vehicle warehouses and air defence positions in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In response, Iran attacked the infrastructure of the United States armed forces in Bahrain and Kuwait.

We assume that Iran, much like any other Member State, has the right to self-defence, as provided for in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. In this case, the enemy's military facilities become legitimate targets and do not enjoy immunity. We have also heard statements by Iranian officials indicating that the retaliatory strikes were directed solely at United States military infrastructure in the region. If those strikes resulted in damage to civilian facilities, it warrants condemnation. Targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure, regardless of the country in which it is located — be that Iran or the Arab Gulf States — are unacceptable. Russia has repeatedly underscored this position in various international forums, including at the Security Council.

We should bear in mind that the sole root cause of the current flare-ups of escalation in the Middle East is the United States-Israeli aggression against Iran, which is not only a gross violation of Iran's sovereignty but has also jeopardized the security of many other countries in the region. Against this backdrop, we regret that our Arab friends have once again become hostages to yet another exchange of strikes between Washington and Tehran. In this case, the problem, in our view, stems from the fact that the instigators of the military escapade against Iran did not care about the security of their partners in the region, and even if they did think about it, it was only as an afterthought.

At the same time, it is encouraging that, despite what has transpired, the parties to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding have reasserted that the ceasefire is in place, and they are proceeding with technical consultations on various provisions of the agreements reached on 17 June. We stand convinced that during this sensitive period, laden with responsibility, it is essential to strictly adhere to the understandings crafted by Washington and Tehran, while preventing further bursts of conflict throughout the entire Middle East, including in Lebanon. We expect that work towards a comprehensive agreement will facilitate not only the restoration of lasting peace but also the rebuilding of trust between our friends on both sides of the Persian Gulf. We also expect that these efforts will result in the resumption of safe and unimpeded navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, which would benefit the energy and food security of the countries of the global South.

Russia is willing to assist in the development of a comprehensive, long-term agreement between the United States and Iran, as well as a broader regional agreement, should our assistance be requested. In this context, we would like to once again draw members' attention to the updated version of Russia's concept for collective security in the Persian Gulf area, which we circulated to our Arab and Iranian partners at the end of May. This document provides for a phased approach to resolving conflict situations, stipulates the need to uphold the principle of common and indivisible security and calls for confidence-building measures to be developed and the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz to be safeguarded in accordance with international law. We hope that this initiative will provide fresh impetus for a substantive discussion on how to shape a post-conflict regional security architecture. We stand ready to continue providing diplomatic support for efforts to stabilize the situation in the Middle East.

On a separate note, we would like to emphasize that the Security Council bears a special responsibility for sustaining the negotiation process and creating conditions conducive thereto. The United Nations Security Council needs to maintain a balanced and objective stance. We should avoid further tensions that could be stirred up through "abrupt moves", politicized accusations and disregard for the broader context of the situation. Any potential initiatives must be equidistant and aimed at prompting a comprehensive settlement. Our country stands ready, as always, to engage constructively in shaping the Council's shared position on this issue.

Mr. Waltz (United States of America): I want to congratulate the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its presidency, and I would like to welcome once again Foreign Minister Al Zayani to the Council. I too thank Assistant Secretary-General Spehar for her briefing.

Three months ago, through resolution 2817 (2026), led by the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Council stood with our friends in the Gulf without opposition, as their hospitals, as their airports, energy infrastructure and resorts were under blistering fire from Iranian drones and missiles.

I can say, on a personal note, I was just in the Gulf, in the Kingdom, along with the United Arab Emirates and other partners that have been indiscriminately struck by Iran, and their civilian infrastructure repeatedly damaged. I visited some of the locations

that the Iranians have hit, and if there are any doubts about Iran's intentions, I encourage Council members to go and talk with the Bahrainis and visit Manama, Abu Dhabi and other locations. They did not just fire off a bunch of missiles and drones, hoping that they would hit a few targets. It was deliberate, it was well planned, it was malicious.

I visited the Bahrain Petroleum Company, where I saw where Iran very precisely targeted the fire suppression lines first. They then targeted first responders, so that they could not respond. They targeted a site literally in the middle of a neighbourhood. Fortunately, the drone did not explode. It would have potentially killed two to three thousand families in a massive explosion.

But they did this in a way to maximize damage. Even when they hit fuel tanks, they targeted the largest fuel tank and were sure to hit the bottom of the tank rather than the top, so that it fully drained. Again, the fire suppression apparatus, the safety apparatus had been destroyed, and the first responders even — the firemen and women — had been attacked, so that they could not put out the fires. They even aimed at chemical storage areas, where direct strikes could have killed thousands of innocent people in what Iran's representative today will call its neighbours. That is not how you treat neighbours in my neighbourhood, where I come from.

Meanwhile, they have stopped every ship from transiting the Strait of Hormuz, and it did not matter if the ship was carrying fertilizers to farmers in Africa, aid to the Sudan, or fuel to Japan, whether they were involved in this conflict or not. We have heard talk today of root causes. I do not think farmers in East Africa were involved in root causes — civilian, military, it did not matter. Iran sought to punish the world, all of us. People who had no interest, no party, even no knowledge of their nuclear aspirations.

Just this week, the United Nations Trade and Development agency found that Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz will have lasting effects on 61 developing economies. Again, let us go back to the talk of root causes from our Russian colleagues. Okay, hit back on military sites, fire back on United States bases in the region, fire back on Israel, even. But 61 developing countries will suffer now, or their crops will not grow, because Iran sought and seeks to indiscriminately punish the world because of their views in this conflict. Iran cannot and we cannot allow it to hold the world's economy hostage. So many innocent civilians around the world are being affected.

Therefore, as a response, Bahrain, our Gulf Arab allies and others rallied a record-breaking 136 co-sponsors who spoke with one voice: Iran must stop its attacks on its neighbours and leave an international waterway, the Strait of Hormuz, open for all. Our friends in the Gulf have rallied another 143 co-sponsors on a separate draft resolution, circulated in May, that once again calls on Iran to stop its illegal mining. We cannot just throw mines, whether it is on land or in the sea, in response to a conflict and impose illegal tolls. There must be respect for international law, for free passage for all.

Therefore, we are here today because, despite the diplomatic achievements and agreements, Iran still has not shown the world a basic level of decency and respect. Instead, they openly defy the Council, their neighbours and basic tenets of diplomacy.

Members of the Council told Iran: stop the attacks, open the Strait. Iran's neighbours respectfully asked Iran to stop the violence and open the Strait. Even their closest partners told them privately: stop the mining, stop the tolling and open the Strait. And, just two weeks ago, the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Iran. Its most basic premise is the Strait, an international waterway, must be open and attacks on civilian shipping must stop.

We are here today because Iran ignored that. Last week, Iran fired missiles and drones at civilian infrastructure in Bahrain and Kuwait. Why did they do that? They also fired at commercial vessels transiting Omani territories. Again, we just heard, Iran has

a right to defend itself. Do they have the right to attack Kuwait and attack random civilian ships flagged by Panama and Singapore in international waters? Is that a right under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations? I would think not.

Again, let us be clear about what happened here after 136 countries told Iran to stop. Iran fired again after its neighbours pleaded for de-escalation. Iran fired again after the United States sat down for weeks and pursued diplomacy at the highest levels. The Vice-President of the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Iran fired again. And after the Iranian people dared to speak out for a new Iran, the regime battered its own people, and they are still spending millions on Internet suppression. Why are they doing that?

As a tragic aside, executions in Iran have surged. Despite the Internet blackout, we know this. Javad Zamani, Abolfazl Saedi, two students, young men, were just executed 10 days ago in Iran. Do Council members know their crime? As it was rammed through a revolutionary court with no representation, their crime was “waging war against God”. That was their crime. I look at their representative, I do not know how he lays his head on his pillow at night, but whatever false choice the Ayatollah’s cronies present him, it is not the only choice.

Amnesty International says these protesters are not the 40,000 who were machine-gunned in the streets in the period of one weekend. Amnesty International says that they are being held in secret, are being tortured into confessions, have no counsel and, in some cases, are being hanged publicly to send a message.

There is an old scripture that says: “I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.” Iran cannot keep choosing death and curse. And today, we once again urge Iran to revert to the path of peace and dialogue. The world is not with Iran. Iran’s own people are not with this regime. Its neighbours are not with this regime.

Colleagues on the Council and all responsible nations must realize that it is a time for choosing, and I ask that they please make their stance clear. These attacks are fundamentally unlawful. They are inconsistent with the Memorandum of Understanding, and they are certainly in violation of resolution 2817 (2026). They are a disservice to the future of the Iranian people.

I cannot stress enough that the possibility of a real, transformative and positive opportunity for the nation and people of Iran is on the table. But President Trump’s patience is not unlimited. The world cannot continue to suffer. Iran must abide by its obligations to the Council — obligations that the Council voted for without opposition — and the world must hold this regime to account.

Mr. Brown II (Liberia): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the three African members of the Security Council, namely the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and my own country, Liberia (A3).

We thank the Assistant Secretary-General for her comprehensive update on the latest developments in the region. The A3 congratulates Ambassador Mukongo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on assuming the presidency for the month of July. Mr. President, you can, of course, count on the A3’s full support. We thank the Colombian delegation for its stellar stewardship of the Council last month. We welcome the presence of the Foreign Minister of Bahrain in today’s meeting, along with that of the representative of Kuwait.

The A3 is deeply alarmed by the recent attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait. The explicit admission of responsibility for these actions is no mere footnote. It is a warning flare over an already fragile region, signalling a dangerous escalation in the wider pattern of hostilities across the Middle East.

These renewed escalations in the Gulf threaten to widen the circle of instability, endanger regional security and send tremors through the global economy. At such a moment, the principles of international law cannot be treated as optional instruments of convenience because, in truth, they are the vital guardrails preventing crisis from becoming catastrophe. Therefore, we call for absolute respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States, especially the peaceful Gulf nations.

We urge all parties to choose dialogue over brinkmanship, restraint over retaliation and diplomacy over the dangerous illusion that force can deliver lasting security. In this regard, the A3 welcomes the 17 June signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, achieved through the mediation of Pakistan. We strongly urge all parties to strictly adhere to their ceasefire commitments and protect the integrity of these fragile talks. A diplomatic opening, once closed, is rarely easily restored. Recent military actions must not be allowed to extinguish the possibility of dialogue. Sustainable peace can only be built at the negotiating table, never on the ruins of confrontation.

We reiterate our urgent call for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure. In every conflict, innocent lives must never become the currency of political calculation or military advantage. Commitments undertaken by the parties must be fully respected, faithfully implemented and honoured in good faith.

Equally critical is the guarantee of freedom of navigation in international waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz. This is not merely a regional concern. It is a global necessity. No nation should mistake strategic waterways for levers of pressure, nor allow the arteries of international commerce to be held hostage to conflict. All parties must refrain from actions that undermine maritime security and the free flow of trade upon which the global economy depends. We demand full compliance with resolution 2817 (2026), which insists on an immediate end to threats and provocations targeting regional security and maritime commerce.

In conclusion, the Council must help ensure that the region steps back from the edge and returns to the path of reason, restraint and responsible diplomacy. The choice before all parties remains stark: either widen the flares of conflict or widen the doors of dialogue. The A3 urgently calls for the latter, because in the Middle East, as everywhere, peace is not preserved by the loudness of weapons, but by the courage of wisdom.

Ms. Pavluta-Deslandes (Latvia) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate the Democratic Republic of the Congo on assuming the presidency of the Council for the month of July and to wish you, Mr. President, every success and assure you of my delegation's support.

(*spoke in English*)

I also thank Colombia for its excellent steering of the Council's work last month, and I thank Assistant Secretary-General Spehar for her valuable contribution. I welcome the participation of His Excellency Mr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in today's meeting, along with that of the representative of Kuwait.

We are once again meeting on account of reckless attacks perpetrated by Iran, this time against Bahrain and Kuwait on 28 June, well after the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran on a cessation of hostilities. These continuous attacks threaten regional stability and endanger the ceasefire agreement enshrined in the Memorandum of Understanding. Latvia categorically condemns these attacks against civilians and infrastructure, and we express our solidarity with Bahrain, Kuwait and our partners in the Gulf.

International law, including international humanitarian law, must be respected by all parties at all times. We reiterate that for diplomacy to succeed, a complete cessation of hostilities is critical, in full compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding and resolution 2817 (2026). Iran must cease its campaign of unprovoked strikes against its neighbours and abandon any attempts to disrupt free and safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. This includes demining the Strait and ceasing any and all threats and attacks against maritime vessels.

For months now, Iran has been inflicting suffering on the most vulnerable around the globe by disrupting global supply chains, leading to spiking energy prices and endangering global food security. This follows decades of destabilizing activities by Iran in the wider region. Let me also remind the Council of the fact that Iran has supplied Russia with drones and missiles for its war of aggression against Ukraine — the same weapons it is now using against its neighbours in the Gulf.

We reiterate our support for the ongoing negotiations between the United States and Iran and appreciate the mediation efforts by Pakistan and Qatar, among others. A long-term sustainable solution to the threat Iran poses to the international rules-based order must be found. It is imperative to ensure that Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon and that it engages with the International Atomic Energy Agency and ceases its destabilizing activities in the region and beyond, including attempts to hold an international waterway hostage, in clear violation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Latvia will remain a constructive partner in these efforts, and we continue to call on Iran to comply with its obligations under international law.

Mr. Fu Cong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Democratic Republic of the Congo on assuming the presidency of the Council for this month. The Chinese delegation will fully cooperate with it and its colleagues. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Colombia for its work during its presidency last month. I thank Assistant Secretary-General Spehar for the briefing and welcome His Excellency Minister for Foreign Affairs Al Zayani and the representatives of Iran and Kuwait to this meeting.

Recently, the United States and Iran exchanged a new round of strikes, with targets in Bahrain and Kuwait affected. China has consistently advocated for all parties to observe the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and opposes the threat or the use of force in international relations. We call on all parties to remain calm, exercise restraint and refrain from provocative rhetoric and military adventurism so as to avoid straining and escalating the already tense situation. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of all countries in the region should be respected. Civilians and non-military targets should be protected.

China welcomes the fact that the United States and Iran have initiated follow-up consultations on the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, with facilitation from Pakistan and Qatar, and have reached consensus on the mechanism for the next round of negotiations. The facts have proven time and again that neither force nor might can resolve problems and that dialogue and negotiation are the only right choice. With the joint efforts by all, the conflict has finally shifted towards dialogue. However, the ceasefire remains fragile. Whether peace can truly be achieved depends on the joint efforts of all parties.

China wishes to highlight the following three points.

First, the comprehensive ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities must be consolidated. This war has already inflicted tremendous losses on countries in the region. The flames of war must not be allowed to flare up. The United States and Iran should maximize good faith, implement the Memorandum of Understanding in earnest, keep the momentum of negotiations going and overcome difficulties and disruptions with a

view to promptly reaching a mutually agreed comprehensive agreement that is accepted by regional countries and welcomed by the international community.

Secondly, normal navigation in the Strait must resume as soon as possible. The Strait of Hormuz is used for international navigation. Restoring security and free passage in the Strait will help to maintain the stability of global production and supply chains and will serve the common interests of the countries of the region and the international community at large. The arrangements for the Strait must respect littoral States' sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests, while also complying with international practice and the common aspirations of all countries.

Thirdly, relations among regional countries must be improved. The Middle East, including the Gulf, should no longer be an arena for rivalry among major Powers or fall victim to geopolitical games. China supports regional countries in achieving genuine strategic autonomy, in upholding a vision of common comprehensive cooperative and sustainable security, in resolving differences through dialogue and consultations, in exploring a new regional security architecture and in firmly taking their destiny into their own hands.

As a responsible major Power and a sincere partner of countries of the region, China remains committed to upholding President Xi Jinping's four propositions for maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. Along with the international community, China will play a constructive role in finding a political solution to regional hotspot issues and in maintaining and promoting regional peace and stability.

Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan): Let me join colleagues in congratulating you, Mr. President, on assuming the Council's presidency, and let me also assure you of Pakistan's full support. We also commend Ambassador Zalabata Torres and the Colombian delegation for a very successful presidency last month. I would also like to welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. Al Zayani, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, at today's meeting. We have listened attentively to his statement. We also welcome the participation of the representatives of Iran and Kuwait in this meeting.

It has been Pakistan's consistent belief that the only way to settle the situation in the region conclusively and comprehensively is through diplomacy, dialogue and negotiations. From the outset, Pakistan has maintained a principled position with respect to the inadmissibility of any use of force outside the bounds of international law. The unwarranted strikes against Iran and those targeting the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC). Pakistan has been categorically condemning attacks against the GCC countries and, once again, expresses its full solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Bahrain and Kuwait. We had all along cautioned that if not contained, this conflict would directly affect the peace and security situation in the region, with the potential for a wider geographical conflagration.

Pakistan initiated its mediation efforts out of a deep sense of responsibility towards the promotion of regional and global peace and stability and the protection of precious lives and livelihoods. Pakistan has been engaged from the beginning, under the firm conviction that any further escalation and continuation of fighting would only exacerbate human suffering and carry grave consequences for regional and international peace and security. The conclusion of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran reflects a victory of robust and determined diplomacy. Our efforts are aimed at saving lives, de-escalating the situation and opening the space for structured dialogue leading to an enduring mutual understanding and a final deal.

We thank the parties and our partners, especially Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt and China for their trust and support for Pakistan's mediation efforts.

Pakistan has stepped up its diplomatic engagement with key regional and international stakeholders to facilitate earnest follow-up to and implementation of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding by Iran and the United States, in line with the Pakistan-Qatar joint statement issued on 21 June.

Yesterday, Pakistan and Qatar concluded separate meetings with the United States and Iranian negotiators in Doha, with positive progress made on issues related to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, building on the outcomes of the Lake Lucerne summit. The parties agreed to continue discussions over the coming period, with the next meeting to be scheduled at the earliest possible time. We remain hopeful and optimistic that we will continue to see meaningful progress in the coming days.

Pakistan's leadership remains engaged with the parties, our partners and countries in the region. We continue to facilitate dialogue and confidence-building measures to prevent escalation and to sustain diplomatic engagement. From our perspective, the fact that the talks are continuing and the parties are at the negotiating table is a significant positive outcome. The channels of communication remain open, and we are persisting in our efforts towards ushering in peace, security and tranquillity that will benefit the entire region and all countries, without exception.

Mrs. Zalabata Torres (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the President for convening this meeting and, as this is the first time I am taking the floor, I take this opportunity to wish him success in his work this month. I also thank Assistant Secretary-General Spehar for her briefing and welcome the delegations joining us. Furthermore, I welcome Mr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain.

Colombia condemns in the strongest terms the recent attacks against Kuwait and the Kingdom of Bahrain and expresses its solidarity with the peoples of both countries. These events constitute a grave threat to international peace and security and highlight the fragility of the situation in the region.

The pattern of attacks and reprisals is not making any State more secure; on the contrary, it increases mistrust and intensifies confrontation, the consequences of which extend beyond the actors directly involved. This only fuels a cycle of instability that heightens risks for the civilian population, narrows the space for dialogue and dims the prospects for a political solution.

In this context, my country reiterates that all States have an obligation to act in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. These principles cannot be applied selectively; rather, they constitute legal obligations that bind all States equally and form the foundation of the international order.

At the same time, Colombia considers it essential to maintain the momentum of ongoing diplomatic efforts and calls on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to refrain from all action that could aggravate the situation or lead to further escalation.

In this regard, the recent Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran represents an opportunity that must not be squandered. While the events of recent days have highlighted the fragility of that process, they also demonstrate the need to redouble efforts to prevent the current escalation from narrowing or closing off the political space that has begun to open up. It is incumbent upon all parties to act responsibly and consistently so that this opportunity can translate into concrete results and create the conditions for reaching a sustainable agreement.

Colombia reiterates that only through respect for international law, good faith and the peaceful settlement of disputes will it be possible to avoid further escalation and to preserve international peace and security.

Mr. Bonnafont (France) (*spoke in French*): I congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Council. You have our full support. I also congratulate Colombia on its active presidency last month. I thank Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Elizabeth Spehar for her very thorough briefing.

The Council is meeting at the request of the Kingdom of Bahrain. France welcomes the presence of its Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani. The request was prompted by the Iranian drone attacks against the Kingdom of Bahrain on 28 June, which resulted in the destruction of residential buildings. These attacks, together with the Iranian ballistic missile attacks on Kuwait carried out on 27 June, are unacceptable and constitute a flagrant violation of resolution 2817 (2026), adopted by the Council in March.

France condemns these Iranian attacks in the strongest possible terms and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all its partners in the Middle East. Since the beginning of this crisis, France has stood alongside its partners in the face of Iran's unilateral attacks against their territories. France remains fully committed to contributing to their defence.

These attacks once again demonstrate the need for lasting and comprehensive de-escalation in the region. The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran must pave the way for a lasting diplomatic solution capable of restoring security and stability in the region and stabilizing the global economy. France supports the efforts of the mediators and the parties to ensure that the discussions move forward and make progress across the various tracks.

First, we must move without delay towards the full reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. The resumption of maritime traffic, without restrictions or tolls, is indispensable to regional stability and the stability of the global economy. Attacks on commercial vessels must cease immediately. Navigation through the Strait must be free, without conditions or restrictions, in accordance with the law of the sea.

France, together with the United Kingdom and nearly 30 States from several continents and the region, has taken the initiative to establish an independent, neutral and defensive multinational mission that stands ready to contribute to efforts to restore safe navigation in this international waterway. In particular, the mission could assist with mine-clearing operations in the Strait and escort commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Dialogue is ongoing with all stakeholders to that end.

Detailed negotiations are also under way on the nuclear issue. We fully support these efforts to reach a robust non-proliferation agreement that verifiably guarantees that Iran will never acquire a nuclear weapon. Only the signing and implementation of such an agreement will make it possible, when the time comes, to consider lifting the relevant Security Council sanctions, which were reimposed by the Council in September. France calls on all parties to refrain from any action that could provoke a further military escalation, the consequences of which would be disastrous for the region and for the world. It also calls on them to persevere in the pursuit of a diplomatic settlement. France is committed to working alongside the parties to help bring about a lasting peace.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Iravani (Islamic Republic of Iran): At the outset, I congratulate the Democratic Republic of the Congo on assuming the presidency of the Security Council and commend Colombia for its successful presidency in June. We have taken note of the statement delivered by Assistant Secretary-General Spehar.

At a time when technical talks, facilitated by our Pakistani and Qatari brothers, are focused on implementing the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between

the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Council is expected to refrain from convening a meeting that risks undermining these ongoing efforts.

I categorically reject the baseless allegations made by the United States. Once again, the representative of the United States has resorted to lies and disinformation against Iran. The facts are clear. In the midst of diplomatic negotiations, together with the Israeli regime, the United States betrayed diplomacy twice and launched two wars of aggression against Iran, in blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. These violations constitute a grave threat to international peace and security.

I also reject the unfounded accusations made by certain Western members of the Council and the representative of Bahrain. Instead of addressing the root cause of the current crisis, they have ignored the unlawful aggression committed against Iran, remained silent in the face of these serious violations and sought to shift blame onto the victims. Their double standards and hypocritical behaviour have deprived them of any credibility to lecture others.

Against this backdrop, I would like to make the following points.

First, Iran is the main victim of the wars of aggression launched by the United States and the Israeli regime. The role of the victim and the aggressor must not be reversed. The United States and the Israeli regime have flagrantly violated the United Nations Charter and international law, including international humanitarian law, by imposing two unjustified and unwarranted wars against the Iranian people. During their attacks in June 2025 and between 28 February and 8 April 2026, the United States deliberately targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, sports facilities, schools and cultural sites. Even the President of the United States and other senior United States officials publicly admitted to, and openly boasted about, committing these heinous war crimes against the Iranian people and civilian infrastructure. More than 4,800 civilians, including women and children, were killed. The killing of schoolgirls in Minab remains one of the most horrific examples of these atrocious crimes. The Security Council's failure to discharge its responsibilities has reinforced impunity and emboldened further unlawful acts. The United States and the Israeli regime bear full responsibility for all the consequences of these wars of aggression and must be held fully accountable.

Secondly, the United States has repeatedly violated the 8 April ceasefire and its commitments under the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding by launching further attacks against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Iran has exercised its inherent right of self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter. Its defensive measures were directed against United States military facilities and bases and its assets in the region from which attacks against Iran were launched. We strongly condemn the recent air attacks and aggression by the United States of 27 June against Iran's southern coastal facilities, which constituted a flagrant violation of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter, as well as a clear breach of paragraph 1 of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.

Thirdly, certain members referred to the politically motivated resolution 2817 (2026). Iran's position regarding resolution 2817 (2026) is clear, consistent and well documented in its communications circulated as official documents of the Security Council. Iran has rejected this politically motivated resolution, which was adopted through a one-sided and politicized process that ignored the root cause of the crisis, denied Iran's inherent right of self-defence and failed to identify the United States and the Israeli regime as the aggressors. No Security Council resolution can deprive a Member State of its inherent right of self-defence under the United Nations Charter. Should aggression against Iran continue, or should the United States continue to violate the Memorandum of Understanding, Iran will continue to exercise this inherent right to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Rather than blaming Iran, these Council

members should call on the United States to honour its commitments, cease its unlawful actions and comply fully with the United Nations Charter and international law.

Fourthly, despite the deep mistrust of the United States caused by its repeated violations and the United States betrayal of diplomacy, Iran engaged in diplomacy in good faith through negotiations facilitated by Pakistan and supported by Qatar, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China and the Russian Federation. This process resulted in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on 17 June. We express our appreciation to Pakistan and Qatar for their tireless efforts and invaluable contributions to this process. The Memorandum of Understanding clearly requires the United States to negotiate in good faith and, in particular, to refrain from any threat or use of force against Iran. This commitment constituted a fundamental and indispensable obligation under the Memorandum of Understanding, serving as an essential condition for preserving the confidence, stability and good faith necessary for the successful continuation of the negotiating process. Yet, by launching another act of aggression and relying on a unilateral and legally unfounded interpretation of the Memorandum of Understanding, the United States committed a material breach of its commitments and seriously undermined the diplomatic process.

Fifthly, Iran remains fully committed to implementing the Memorandum of Understanding, including its provisions concerning the Strait of Hormuz, provided that the United States faithfully fulfils its own obligations. Paragraph 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding provides:

“The Islamic Republic of Iran will make arrangements using its best efforts for the safe passage of commercial vessels, with no charge for 60 days only, from the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman, and vice versa. The transit of commercial vessels will immediately start, and considering the need for removing the technical and military obstacles, and demining by the Islamic Republic of Iran, will be instated within 30 days.”

As has been stated by Iran’s Foreign Minister, under the agreed arrangements, responsibility for the management of maritime navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, including its reopening and all necessary demining operations, rests exclusively with Iran. The implementation of these arrangements is currently under way in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, and Iran has launched technical dialogue with the Sultanate of Oman. Any external interference or attempt to establish parallel arrangements would violate the Memorandum of Understanding, undermine its implementation, delay the restoration of normal commercial navigation, put at risk safe maritime navigation and increase regional tensions. We therefore call upon all States, particularly the United States, to respect in good faith the letter and spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding and to refrain from reinterpreting its content and from action that interferes with its implementation.

Sixthly, Iran reiterates its commitment to freedom of navigation and continues to ensure that such freedom is guaranteed for all, without interference. It should have been clear that the presence of United States military bases and foreign interference in the Persian Gulf region bring nothing but insecurity. They have put at risk regional security in general and maritime safety in particular. The United States has no coastal border in our region. They are not their waters. It is not their neighbourhood. Defining and concluding a security regime for our region is the exclusive joint responsibility of neighbouring countries, and the United States and others, rather than a destructive military presence or interference, need to support regional countries to fulfil such responsibility.

In conclusion, the priority must be the full implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the continuation of negotiations towards a comprehensive deal.

The Security Council should support this process, encourage full compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding and refrain from provocative actions that could undermine diplomacy or further escalate tensions.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kuwait.

Mr. Alenezi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important emergency meeting at a time when our region finds itself in very delicate and dangerous circumstances and in light of a continuous escalation that is directly affecting the security and sovereignty of States and threatening regional and international peace and security, despite the fact that there are signs of calm. We thank the Assistant Secretary-General for her briefing. We also welcome the participation of His Excellency Mr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in this meeting.

We affirm that convening today's meeting of the Security Council should not be a mere procedural response to a passing development, but rather a clear milestone for the Council in assuming its main responsibilities, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in maintaining international peace and security and in confronting all actions that might endanger the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the security of their peoples.

The State of Kuwait condemns in the strongest terms the sinful and repeated Iranian aggressions that have targeted the territory and airspace of the State of Kuwait, as well as its civilian and vital facilities. The attacks on the Kingdom of Bahrain using ballistic missiles, drones and mobile missiles are a blatant violation of the sovereignty of States and a clear violation of the rules of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, reflecting an unacceptable approach to escalation and undermining efforts to reduce tensions. These attacks cannot be viewed as isolated incidents or developments. They are part of a recurring pattern of hostilities that further endanger the security and stability of the region and pose a direct and unjustified threat to civilian life, the safety of critical installations and air and maritime navigation.

Since the beginning of this wave of escalation, the State of Kuwait has been subjected to repeated attacks totalling 893 drones, 379 ballistic missiles and 15 cruise missiles, which in previous stages resulted in several casualties and injuries, including a child, as well as material damage. Vital civilian installations and infrastructure, including Kuwait International Airport and its civil aviation safety facilities, were affected. In this context, the State of Kuwait affirms that the efficiency of its armed forces and the vigilance of its air defences have prevented greater losses by the grace of God, and the protection of the lives of citizens and residents as well as the territorial integrity of the country will remain uncompromising national priorities.

The State of Kuwait holds the Islamic Republic of Iran fully responsible for these attacks and reiterates its firm and clear position that it has not been, and nor will it be, a party to any military escalation. It has not, and will not, allow its territory, airspace or territorial waters to be used as a launching point for any hostile acts against any State. This is a firm, principled position based on the policy of the State of Kuwait, with respect for the sovereignty of States, good neighbourliness and upholding international law and the United Nations Charter. However, this responsible position cannot be met with aggression, and restraint cannot be used as an excuse to target sovereignty or for neighbouring countries to bear the consequences of confrontations that they did not choose and to which they were not a party, as the sovereignty of States is not a political margin that can be crossed in times of tension, and the security of peoples is not a pressure card in any confrontation. International law is not a selective obligation that is invoked when necessary and ignored in cases of escalation.

Accordingly, the State of Kuwait affirms its honest call to bring an immediate end to these hostilities, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and refrain from the use or threat of use of force, calling for full compliance with the rules of international law, including the principles of good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

The State of Kuwait reiterates its full support and firm solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom of Bahrain in all measures it takes to protect its security, sovereignty, territorial integrity and people and that the security of the State of Kuwait and that of the Kingdom of Bahrain and other countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf are inseparable and indivisible, and any violation of any Gulf State is a direct violation of the collective security of our region and the stability that represents a common regional and international interest. The State of Kuwait commends the Gulf, Arab and international positions, which condemned these attacks, and we see this condemnation as a clear message that the international community does not accept the targeting of safe countries or the transformation of their territories, airspace and civilian facilities into an arena for settling scores or transferring tensions.

The Security Council already expressed through resolution 2817 (2026) its position regarding attacks on countries of the region, including Kuwait and Bahrain. It reiterated the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, maintaining the security of navigation and stopping attacks, threats and provocations that undermine the security and stability of the region. The State of Kuwait therefore reiterates that the test of the Council's credibility does not lie in adopting resolutions but rather in implementing them and preventing repeated violations. The resolutions have been adopted to address such violations. The recent attacks reaffirm that a lack of accountability encourages further escalation, and the absence of a clear and firm international position would open the door to further uncalculated escalation. The State of Kuwait therefore calls on the Security Council to send an unequivocal message rejecting these attacks, condemning any acts that affect the sovereignty, security and stability of States, calling on Iran to cease its attacks immediately and to refrain from any actions that could expand the scope of the conflict or endanger international navigation and civilian installations.

Kuwait and Bahrain have recently faced grave incidents. However, the State of Kuwait affirms that the path to security and stability does not lie in missiles and drones, nor is it safeguarded through threats and the fuelling of tension, but rather through dialogue, de-escalation, respect for international law and addressing the root causes of crises by peaceful means. In this context, the State of Kuwait welcomes the diplomatic efforts that led to the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressing outstanding issues between the two sides, including the cessation of military operations and ensuring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. The State of Kuwait also commends the efforts made by friendly and sisterly nations, foremost among them the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, alongside other international endeavours aimed at reducing tension and preventing the confrontation from escalating.

However, welcoming this step does not exempt any party from its legal obligations, nor does it in any way justify the continuation of attacks on States that were not parties to the confrontation. The success of any diplomatic understanding depends on the extent to which it is respected in practice, on the cessation of all hostile acts and on its outcomes bringing tangible security to the States of the region and their peoples. It must not remain a dead letter or a fragile framework undermined by repeated attacks.

The State of Kuwait emphasizes that any future arrangements relating to regional security or freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz must be based on respect for international law, the principles of sovereignty, the rights of coastal States and the security

of international navigation; nor must they be at the expense of the security of the Gulf Cooperation Council States or without taking their legitimate interests into account.

The State of Kuwait has demonstrated throughout various crises that it is a State that believes in diplomacy, supports dialogue and adheres to peaceful solutions. Nevertheless, at the same time, it will not be complacent in defending its security, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the safety of its people. The restraint exercised by the State of Kuwait is an expression of responsibility and wisdom, not weakness or acceptance of the status quo; and its commitment to international law does not mean remaining silent in the face of its violation.

In conclusion, the State of Kuwait affirms that the security of the Gulf is an integral part of global security, and that the stability of this vital region is not only in the interests of its States but also in the interests of the global economy, energy security, the safety of navigation and international peace and security. The State of Kuwait will remain steadfast in its positions, committed to peace, upholding international law and supportive of dialogue, while at the same time repelling any aggression that undermines either its security, or the integrity of its territory and the safety of its people.

The President (*spoke in French*): The representative of Bahrain has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Mr. Alrowaiei (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): Once again, the Council has heard an account that seeks to distort the facts and alter the nature of what has taken place on the ground. However, facts are not measured by rhetoric but by documented acts.

Today's emergency meeting concerns documented attacks that targeted civilian infrastructure, vital facilities and residential areas within the Kingdom of Bahrain, in a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law, as well as resolution 2817 (2026). These violations cannot be justified — no words can justify them. Furthermore, these attacks continued just a few days after the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which raises legitimate questions regarding the extent of Iran's commitment to its international obligations and the principle of good faith in the implementation of the agreements.

Respect for sovereignty, fulfilment of international obligations and the non-use or threat of force are not selective principles to be applied only when they serve the interests of a particular State. Rather, they are the very foundations upon which the entire international order is built. From this perspective, any attempt to justify these attacks or to divert the Council's attention from them does not alter their legal reality or negate Iran's responsibility for them.

The Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms its commitment to the path of peace and its support for diplomatic solutions. Nevertheless, it believes, at the same time, that true peace is based solely on respect for obligations and that agreements are not measured by what is declared at the time of their signing, but by what is implemented thereafter. In this context, what is required today is clear and specific: Iran must fully and immediately comply with the provisions of resolution 2817 (2026), expressed in clear, explicit and direct language. The resolution condemned the Iranian attacks, demanded their immediate cessation and affirmed the need to respect the sovereignty of States and the integrity of their territories.

The President (*spoke in French*): The representative of the United States of America has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Mr. Waltz (United States of America): Unfortunately, the representative of the regime started his remarks today by saying, apparently, the Council should not meet, should not

speak. Let me remind him where he is. This is not Tehran. This is the United States of America. This is the United Nations Security Council. He will not silence this body.

The representative goes on to say that the Ambassador from Bahrain, the Foreign Minister, myself and other members of this body are full of lies, that we are lying. Let me ask him, what here is a lie? Who is lying here? Is this Arab family in Bahrain in a residential neighbourhood whose home was destroyed by an Iranian Shahed drone, are they lying? The Crown Plaza Hotel, full of tourists, are they lying? First responders whose headquarters were struck deliberately so that they could not put out fires, are they lying? Is this hypocrisy? Is this what the Council is here to denounce today? I ask the representative, are these lies? These photographs, are they lies? I would say not.

And then, thirdly, we hear claims of self-defence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. My message, our message to the Iranian regime, the Security Council's message is closing international waterways is not self-defence. He claimed that threatening commercial vessels is part of their sovereignty and self-defence. I ask, did the Singaporean air force or military attack Tehran or attack Iran? It did not. Nevertheless, Iran attacked a Singaporean-flagged commercial vessel. We have a representative here, we have the Ambassador here from Panama. Panamanian flagged vessels were attacked just in this past week. Did Panama attack Iran? Is that self-defence against Panama? I hope the representative responds. I do not think Panama attacked Iran. I do not think Singapore attacked Iran. I do not think the rest of the world has attacked Iran.

What we are hearing — and let us call it out for what it is: driving up the price of energy, driving up the cost of food, denying 61 developing countries, according to the United Nations, basic life-saving aid — is a cynical, sad and sick attempt at global blackmail, plain and simple. We need to be crystal clear from this body that it is absolutely unacceptable; that the Security Council, if it has a backbone, will not stand for it; that the world will not stand for it; and that we will hold this Iranian regime accountable for its attacks on our populations around the world through this sick attempt at global coercion.

The President (*spoke in French*): The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Iravani (Islamic Republic of Iran): I will be brief.

In response to my brother, Jamal Alrowaie, from Bahrain, there is no doubt that certain countries in the region, including Bahrain, facilitated this aggression by allowing their territory and airspace to be used by aggressors. The international responsibility, alongside the responsibility of the United States and the Israeli regime, is clear and undeniable. He knows that, according to General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX), providing one's space and soil to an aggressor is an act of aggression. And I think that it should be clear to our neighbouring countries that the presence of America and its bases in their countries not only does not bring security to their countries but also makes their countries vulnerable.

In response to the representative of the United States, I would ask him whether a maritime blockade is a collective punishment. He was at war with Iran. Why does his country prevent international vessels from reaching Iranian ports? He cannot deny the facts. The fact is that 70 per cent of Americans and taxpayers oppose his Administration's war policy towards Iran. They believe that the interests of Americans have been sacrificed to serve Israeli interests. And in Iran, the reality of the relationship between the nation and the State is also evidenced by the funeral of the Supreme Leader, which will take place next week. The representative of the United States can close his eyes and ears, but he cannot change the truth.

The President (*spoke in French*): The representative of Bahrain has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

I now give him the floor for the last time.

Mr. Alrowaiei (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): I apologize for taking the floor again, but I wanted to respond to the representative of Iran once more.

Resolution 2817 (2026) condemns those acts, and there is no justification for them. The Islamic Republic of Iran should revisit that resolution. We are meeting here not to give speeches but because there are documented acts and crimes perpetrated by Iran in Bahrain and in the region. The justifications given by the representative of Iran are invalid, and the best evidence of that is resolution 2817 (2026). I will not go on at greater length, but I call on him to reread the resolution, which conveys the voice of the international community concerning Iran and its attacks on Bahrain and the region.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.