STATEMENT BY
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to the United Nations

for
UNSC briefing on the report of the Secretary General
concerning the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq

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Mr. President,

At the outset allow me to congratulate the People’s Republic of China on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month; I also wish to commend you for your wise leadership. It also gives me pleasure to welcome Mr. Nikolay Mladenov, Special Representative of the Secretary General, head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, for presenting his first report to the Security Council, and commend him for the good start and his work and diligence in networking with all segments of society and their representatives to fulfill the Mission's mandate. At the same time, I assert Iraq's support of Mr. Mladenov and his team in Baghdad and New York for the success of the objectives of the Mission's mandate to help Iraq.

I also seize this opportunity to congratulate on behalf of the government of Iraq the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany and the European Union for reaching an agreement towards resolving the Iranian nuclear issue, which will inevitably relieve tensions in the region at the same time, provides a greater chance to achieve stability. Hoping that this agreement and the positive atmosphere generated will benefit the undertaken efforts to resolve the Syrian conflict maximizing the chances of success of the Geneva -2 conference. On this International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, I congratulate the Palestinian people on the first anniversary for the recognition of the state of Palestine as an observer state by the United Nations.

Mr. President,

Iraq is sparing no efforts to involve all segments of Iraqi society in the political process and continues to resolve all remaining and lingering problems in the framework of national reconciliation. At the same time, Iraq thrives to build a strong economy based on the enormous Iraqi human resources and taking advantage of its natural resources. In spite of the security challenges, Iraq continues on the path of democracy to build its institutions, as the Iraqi parliament recently passed the current election law; the 30th of April 2014 has been set to hold the national elections in Iraq. This milestone marks the fourth time for the people of Iraq to choose their representatives in 10 years. The National Electoral Commission is currently developing the necessary plans and coordinating efforts, including updating voter’s registries to hold the elections on time. In this regard, we express our gratitude to the (UNAMI) team for their support in the electoral process, and we look forward to the mission’s continued support in providing advice to ensure the success of the upcoming parliamentary elections.
On the 26th of June, unanimously the Security Council adopted resolution 2107 pertaining to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, Iraq welcomed the resolution and valued the efforts of the council's members for issuing it. In this regard, we wish to assert the continuing commitment of the Government of Iraq to fulfill the provisions of that resolution underlining the paragraphs relevant to the search for the remains of the missing Kuwaitis and the return of Kuwaiti properties. We also wish to highlight the excellent and developing relations between the Republic of Iraq and the state of Kuwait and the existing cooperation in this area. Work of the joint ministerial committees is well on its way and meetings are set for next month in the brother state of Kuwait.

Mr. President,

Today's Iraq pursues a policy of openness and seek to develop friendly relations with the international community, based on mutual interests and benefits and non-interference. On those bases, Iraq today enjoys good relations with its neighbors, like Jordan, Kuwait and Iran. we also underscore the latest development in bilateral relations, with neighboring Turkey, where Iraq's foreign minister explored with his Turkish counterpart recently in Baghdad, the means to enhance political and economic cooperation. Also the most recent visit of Iraqi Prime Minister to Washington DC, in the series of mutual bilateral visits between the United States and Iraq, to continue talks to activate the strategic agreement signed between the two countries; led to the strengthening of bilateral cooperation to combat terrorism and aimed at improving Iraq's military and defense capabilities.

Mr. President,

The continuation of the conflict in Syria and the presence of nearly 35,000 armed foreigners on Syrian territory from dozens of countries, battling alongside the parties to the conflict and transforming it into a sectarian conflict, is spreading day by day into the region. This has had a significant impact on increasing the frequency of terrorist acts in Iraq, because one of its main reasons is the activity of Jihadist and Extremist armed groups linked to Al-Qaida that infiltrate across the shared border with neighboring Syria. These groups obtain arms and financial aid from individuals, organizations and countries, thus violating its obligations under international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Therefore, we call upon the Security Council to carry out its responsibilities and to take appropriate actions and consider these terrorist acts, which targets the lives of Iraqi civilians, including children, and women in schools, in houses of worship and in public places, as crimes against humanity, and bring the perpetrators and those who
support them to justice without impunity, as these terrorist attacks has led to the death of thousands of innocent Iraqi citizens.

Mr. President

During the past two years, we have repeatedly emphasized on the seriousness of the continuing Syrian conflict and the severe consequences it has on peace and security in the region and the world, and the importance of finding a peaceful solution on a Syrian to Syrian level to end the conflict. Unfortunately, the international community reached this conviction, after two years of conflict and the death of more than 100,000 Syrian and the displacement of millions from their homes. The humanitarian situation in Syria and the Syrian refugee camps in neighboring countries are in dire need of international assistance in an urgent and pragmatic manner.

Iraq supports the presidential statement issued by the UN Security Council in this regard, as the government of Iraq has hosted and provided humanitarian aid to more than a quarter of a million Syrian refugees in different parts of the country. Further, Iraq supports international efforts to facilitate, expand and accelerate the process of humanitarian relief to Syrian civilians, at home and abroad, and provide them with medicine and all the humanitarian aid that is desperately needed.

On the political aspect, Iraq has been a proactive participant in the work of the Geneva-1 conference and support’s the efforts of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, the Joint Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Arab League, in his role to bring the disputing parties together at the negotiating table in Geneva-2 Conference, which is expected to take place after the agreement of all the parties to it.

There has to be a comprehensive political solution acceptable to Syria to end the continuing conflict, and on that base Iraq supports the holding of Geneva -2 conference, and support must be afforded to all benevolent efforts that work in this direction, including the efforts of neighboring countries and that of the United States and Russia, also the political solution must be accompanied by a humanitarian relief momentum fully pledged by the international community to provide immediate humanitarian aid to all components of the Syrian people.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

We appreciate the efforts of the Security Council in the fight against terrorism and remind the member states and I quote here from the UN Security Council Resolution 1989 in 2011, “that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States, and international and regional organizations to impede, impair, isolate and
incapacitate the terrorist threat.” end of quote. Therefore we request that appropriate measures would be taken to support Iraq in the fight against this international scourge in fulfillment of the terms of the global strategy to combat terrorism that was adopted by the UN in 2006, and to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism in Iraq and the entire region, including urging all States to cooperate actively with Iraq to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism, which rise to crimes against humanity, to justice.

Finally, I reiterate our appreciation and thanks to Mr. Mladenov and his working team on their outstanding work and wish them success in the implementation of UNAMI mission tasks in Iraq.

Thank you Mr. President