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Letter dated 16 June 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With regard to the references to my country in the statement of the Permanent Representative of Iraq at the Security Council meeting held on 17 May 2022 on the situation concerning Iraq, I would like to bring to your attention the following.

The Government of Iraq has the obligation under international law, as well as the Iraqi Constitution, to eliminate the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and other terrorist organizations' presence within its borders and prevent the use of its territories to launch terrorist attacks against Türkiye. However, the Iraqi authorities have not been able to fulfil this obligation so far.

Türkiye has repeatedly expressed its readiness to cooperate with the Iraqi authorities to confront the PKK terrorist organization. However, in the absence of Iraq's ability to deal with the presence of terrorists in its own territory, who are also infiltrating into Türkiye to conduct terrorist attacks, I would like to emphasize once again that Türkiye is obliged to take all appropriate measures against the terrorist threats to its security emanating from Iraq. We firmly reject any criticism towards Türkiye for exercising its inherent right of self-defence, as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and acting within the context of the responsibility attributed in relevant Security Council resolutions to States Members of the United Nations in the fight against terrorism.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu
Permanent Representative

