



# Security Council

Distr.: General  
23 May 2025

Original: English

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## Implementation of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#)

### Forty-second report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#) and paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#), covers developments pertaining to missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, since my previous report, dated 24 November 2024 ([S/2024/844](#)).

2. The report also presents my recommendations pursuant to paragraph 6 (b) of resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#), in which the Security Council requested that I streamline the tasks of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in order to “[f]acilitate, within the transition period, progress towards the final resolution of outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait, including the return of Kuwaiti property and the national archives and the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains, consistent with resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#)”, and that I “make recommendations by 31 May 2025 and present them to the Council for an appropriate follow-on mechanism to support continued progress should these issues not be resolved upon termination of the [Mission’s] mandate”. My recommendations are also made pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#), in which the Council “[e]xpresses its intention to review the modalities of the reporting referred to in operative paragraph 4 of resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#), upon the eventual termination of [the Mission’s mandate], with a view towards considering a continued role for the United Nations in such matters if needed”.

#### II. Recent activities with regard to the repatriation and return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains

3. UNAMI attended, in its observer capacity, the 133rd and 134th meetings of the Technical Subcommittee of the Tripartite Commission, which were held in Amman on 9 and 10 December and in Kuwait City on 18 and 19 February, respectively. On 12 December, UNAMI attended the fifty-ninth meeting of the Tripartite Commission in Amman, at which the Mission’s observer status was renewed until the next meeting of the Tripartite Commission. At those meetings, the members of the Tripartite Commission provided updates on their efforts to identify and explore potential burial



sites of interest. Those efforts continued to rely on voluntary witness testimony, analysis of satellite and aerial imagery, and field missions.

4. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Iraq continued to conduct joint analyses of available commercial satellite imagery and aerial imagery provided by the United States of America for the identification of four potential burial sites in Iraq, including in Samawah (Tall al-Shaykhiyah and Faydat al-Azayir), Karbala' and Khamisiyah. At the 133rd and 134th meetings of the Technical Subcommittee, ICRC presented the findings and recommendations of its consultant from his two visits to Iraq in November and December, including the results of a survey of the four priority sites that was conducted using drone reconnaissance and image analysis in order to identify potential geomorphological anomalies for further investigation. Several points of interest were identified on the basis of the survey, and the consultant carried out a follow-up field visit to those sites in March in order to conduct further assessments using advanced technologies. The findings from those visits will be presented at the next meeting of the Technical Subcommittee.

5. ICRC and Iraq also continued their efforts to conduct joint analyses of available aerial imagery of four sites in Kuwait based on coordinates provided by the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. ICRC continued to discuss with the United States the feasibility of conducting additional searches of the archives of the United States on basis of the provided coordinates. In addition, at the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, ICRC indicated that it had started researching declassified documents from the Iraqi archives and presented a summary of its preliminary findings. Kuwait expressed the belief that these documents contain information, which it said had been collected in Kuwait and Iraq, that could provide leads concerning potential detention and execution sites and thereby aid in the search for missing Kuwaitis and third-country nationals.

6. Regarding the potential burial sites in Samawah (Tall al-Shaykhiyah), located in the Governorate of Muthanna, Iraq reported at the 133rd meeting of the Technical Subcommittee that a financial reward had been granted to a main witness who had provided information on the sites in Samawah that were excavated in 2019 and 2020, in order to encourage him to provide details on two new potential burial sites. Subsequently, on 24 November, the Ministry of Defence of Iraq, acting on new information provided by the main witness, conducted excavation works in his presence at a presumed burial site in Samawah. Iraq stated that 15 trenches had been excavated, but no human remains or evidence thereof had been found.

7. At the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, Iraq reported that its Ministry of Defence, in coordination with the Martyrs Foundation, had conducted a visit from 8 to 12 January to a previously excavated site in Samawah and exhumed 21 bone fragments, which were sent to the Iraqi Medico-Legal Directorate for DNA analysis. At the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, it was agreed that Iraq and ICRC, with the support of the latter's forensic specialist, would revisit the three Samawah sites previously exhumed to confirm that the sites had been fully excavated.

8. On 13 January, Iraq, with the approval of its Prime Minister, handed over 18 bone fragments to Kuwait for further testing and, on 11 February, 23 boxes containing 21 bone fragments and personal belongings that had been exhumed from the Tall al-Shaykhiyah site in Samawah in July and August 2024 and in January 2025. As agreed upon by Iraq and Kuwait, the handovers took place at the United Nations forward support base near Baghdad International Airport, under the auspices of ICRC and in the presence of representatives of UNAMI, the Ministry of Defence of Iraq and the Medico-Legal Directorate of Iraq. UNAMI facilitated the handovers by making available its air assets. At the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, Kuwait stated that, as at the time of the meeting, a total of nine DNA profiles had been

extracted from the first transfer. Those profiles matched the profiles of individuals whose remains had previously been retrieved from the site and identified in 2019.

9. At the fifty-ninth meeting of the Tripartite Commission, the Head of the Iraqi delegation stated that, following a request by Kuwait, he had met with the former Governor of Muthanna to seek additional details regarding information that he possesses about potential burial sites in Samawah, based on testimony that had been collected from him since 2019. Iraq concluded that the former Governor's source of information was the main witness and that he did not possess additional information. At the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, Iraq agreed, at the request of Kuwait, to maintain contact with the former Governor of Muthanna, in case new information should emerge.

10. At the 133rd meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, Iraq stated that it had not been possible to locate potential witnesses for the Karbala' site among former security officers who might have information about potential detention and execution sites.

11. With regard to the Khamisiyah site, at the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, Iraq reported that no new information on former security officers who might have information about potential burial sites had been provided by the witness who had been engaging with the Technical Subcommittee since 2005. Iraq also reported that the list of former security officers who might have information about burial sites, including the names of officers provided by the witness, that had been drawn up by its interministerial security committee could not be shared with the Technical Subcommittee, as no database had been found to verify the names of those officers. Iraq agreed to continue to follow up with this witness but noted that the focus had shifted to another witness who is in custody in relation to a criminal case and might have information about burial sites of interest.

12. As part of the review project to accelerate progress on the missing persons file, at the 133rd meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, ICRC provided an analysis of available data from previous meetings of the Technical Subcommittee and made recommendations regarding further investigative and forensic archaeological search strategies that can be used at the Khamisiyah site. On 20 December, the Ministry of Defence of Iraq, together with the ICRC consultant and the witness, an Iraqi national who had been engaging with the Technical Subcommittee since 2005, conducted an initial survey at the site using a drone. At the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, ICRC presented its findings from the visit. It was agreed that ICRC and its consultant, in coordination with the Ministry of Defence of Iraq and the witness, would revisit the Khamisiyah site in March to conduct another survey using a drone and ground-penetrating radar. Doing so would allow the consultant to analyse the images on site, identify new areas of interest and confirm whether it was necessary to carry out deeper excavation of previously excavated trenches in the area. The use of the ground-penetrating radar during the field visit in March was hampered by widespread surface flooding and substantial water saturation owing to heavy rainfall.

13. With regarding to the Muradiyah site in Diyala Governorate, Iraq informed the Technical Subcommittee that a joint excavation visit with a field team from Iran will be conducted in the summer of 2025 to search for missing Iranian persons in the Diyala region. Pursuant to an agreement concluded by Iraq and Iran, any human remains discovered will be reported to ICRC and Kuwait before being transferred to Iran, in order to assess whether they include the remains of missing persons who fall under the Tripartite Commission's mandate. Iraq also noted that it would share its findings with the Technical Subcommittee in due course.

14. ICRC continued its efforts to pursue contact with a potential witness who might have information on 35 missing Kuwaitis buried in the Jahra' area of Kuwait and will provide updates in that regard at the next meeting of the Technical Subcommittee.

15. At the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, ICRC presented its analysis of the Salman Pak site (the cemetery) on the basis of documentation obtained at previous meetings of the Technical Subcommittee and collected in the context of the review project. Kuwait noted the consensus among Technical Subcommittee members not to proceed with the mapping of the cemetery, which would require significant financial and human resources. It was agreed that ICRC, following the conclusion of its analysis, would explore with Iraq technical alternatives to mapping.

16. With regard to the new information that was provided to Iraq about a potential new burial site in Anbar, Iraq reported, at the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, that an investigation had been launched with regard to the informant who had provided forged documents and bone samples that were subsequently found not to be human. Iraq had also investigated the involvement of others in this case. Kuwait reiterated the importance that all members of the Technical Subcommittee be informed in a timely manner of relevant activities and findings. The Technical Subcommittee agreed to keep this item on the agenda of its next meeting, should any new information emerge.

17. During the reporting period, Kuwait provided new information to Iraq, through ICRC, about a new witness who claimed to have information about two new potential burial sites in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. At the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, Iraq reported that officials of its Ministry of Defence, accompanied by the main witness, had conducted a preliminary visit to the presumed sites in Mosul on 1 February. It was agreed that ICRC and Iraq would discuss conducting a field visit to the two sites, contingent upon an assessment of weapon contamination in those areas.

18. As agreed at the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, on 18 March, Iraq transferred to ICRC, for forwarding to Kuwait, 12 genetic profiles of bone samples that had been exhumed in Najaf Governorate in 2013 for cross-checking with the DNA database of Kuwaiti and third-country nationals.

19. The Tripartite Commission, at its fifty-ninth meeting, adopted several proposals by Kuwait to improve information-sharing, strengthen coordination, track progress against agreed upon timelines and address obstacles in the work of the Technical Subcommittee. In addition, it was agreed that the ICRC would hold monthly meetings with the head of the Iraqi delegation to the Tripartite Commission to exchange information on ongoing activities. At the 134th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, ICRC reported that it had not been possible to organize such meetings, and that it would continue to follow up in that regard. Following an agreement reached at the same meeting, ICRC and Iraq developed a plan of action covering field visits and other activities that are to be carried out until the next meeting of the Technical Subcommittee.

20. In November, the Ministry of Defence of Iraq issued further calls for witnesses to come forward through its official website and media networks using a text agreed upon with Kuwait. Iraq reiterated its commitment to provide financial rewards and immunity from prosecution to any person who provides information on burial sites that could potentially contain the remains of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals.

21. At the 133rd and 134th meetings of the Technical Subcommittee, the United States provided an update on its ongoing efforts to identify potential witnesses among its veterans' associations who might possess information relevant to burial sites. No substantial information, however, has yet been received. In addition, ICRC reported

that international calls for witnesses had been issued through its website and media networks, as well as through its Central Tracing Agency.

22. In line with the road map for implementing the recommendations arising from the review project, ICRC reported at the 133rd and 134th meetings of the Technical Subcommittee that the deployment of the Resolve Platform as a data management platform for the Tripartite Commission was progressing according to the agreed upon timeline. A one-day training session on the platform for all members was planned for 18 May, before the next meeting of the Technical Subcommittee.

23. As part of capacity-building and transfer-of-knowledge efforts, the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus held a training workshop from 25 November to 3 December in Nicosia for technical experts and decision makers from Iraq and Kuwait. The training workshop, which was co-funded by UNAMI and ICRC, covered the search for and recovery and identification of missing persons through the application of best practices and international standards. As a follow-up to that training workshop, ICRC will draft a capacity-building strategy that will be presented to the Technical Subcommittee. At the fifty-ninth meeting of the Tripartite Commission, both Iraq and Kuwait expressed their appreciation to UNAMI and ICRC for funding and coordinating this workshop, which contributed to enhancing the technical capabilities of the participants. In addition, Iraq reported that it had signed a memorandum of cooperation with the University of Baghdad for training on and the use of the university's ground-penetrating radar.

24. On 21 January and 2 February, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI met with the Ambassador of Kuwait to Iraq, with whom he discussed the efforts of UNAMI in support of the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

25. On 7 February, the Special Representative travelled to Kuwait, where he met on 9 February with the Crown Prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Abdullah Al-Yahya. At that meeting, the Special Representative reiterated the commitment of UNAMI to facilitating progress on the Kuwaiti missing persons and property file until the conclusion of Mission's mandate on 31 December 2025.

26. On 27 February, the Special Representative met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Fuad Hussein, with whom he discussed the efforts of UNAMI in support the Kuwaiti missing persons and property file. The Special Representative and Mr. Hussein also discussed the request that the Security Council made in its resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#) for recommendations for an appropriate follow-on mechanism to support continued progress should those issues not be resolved upon the termination of the Mission's mandate on 31 December 2025.

27. On 2 March, the Special Representative travelled again to Kuwait, where he met with the Minister and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and discussed the request that the Council made in its resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#) for recommendations for an appropriate follow-on mechanism.

28. On 8 April, the Special Representative met again in Kuwait with the Crown Prince and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Special Representative provided an update on the progress made on the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property. The Crown Prince welcomed the update and encouraged further concrete steps by Iraq to achieve tangible outcomes.

29. The Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance of UNAMI participated in the 133rd and 134th meetings of the Technical Subcommittee and in the fifty-ninth meeting of the Tripartite Commission.

30. On 14 January, the Deputy Special Representative met with the Ambassador of Kuwait to Iraq and provided him with a briefing on recent developments related to the search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

### **III. Recent activities with regard to the return of Kuwaiti property**

31. On 27 March, UNAMI received a note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq indicating that, following a visit to Kuwait on 11 March by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs for Bilateral Relations, it had been agreed with Kuwait to reactivate the Iraq-Kuwait joint committee on missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, which has not been operational since 2014. Iraq informed UNAMI that it had requested from Kuwait a detailed list of missing Kuwaiti property that Iraq had not yet returned.

32. Iraq informed the Special Representative on 15 April 2025 that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was preparing a shipment of Kuwaiti property to be returned to Kuwait as soon as possible.

### **IV. Way forward**

33. On 31 May 2024, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#), in which it decided to extend the mandate of UNAMI for a final 19-month period, until 31 December 2025. In paragraph 6 (b) of that resolution, the Council requested that I make recommendations by 31 May for an appropriate follow-on mechanism to support continued progress on outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait, including the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains, and the return of Kuwaiti property and the national archives, consistent with resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#), should those issues not be resolved upon the termination of the mandate of UNAMI.

34. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#) on 27 June 2013, UNAMI has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to supporting progress on this important humanitarian file. Over the years, UNAMI has attended the meetings of the Tripartite Commission and Technical Subcommittee as an observer, assisted in the development and delivery of capacity-building activities in the use of ground-penetrating radar, facilitated the transfer of human remains and missing Kuwaiti property through the use of its air assets, conducted high-level advocacy to advance progress and kept the Security Council informed through my periodic reports and briefings.

35. Since UNAMI took up this important mandate in June 2013, and as a result of the collaboration between all partners, including the Tripartite Commission, ICRC and the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, the remains of 59 Kuwaitis and third-country nationals, including 57 on the list presented by Kuwait, were recovered in March 2019 and in January 2020 in Iraq and subsequently identified in Kuwait in November 2021. In August 2023, Kuwait announced the identification of one additional missing person whose remains had been found in previous years. Since then, search efforts have continued to rely on witness testimony, broadcasts in search of new witnesses, analysis of satellite imagery and field visits and excavation

missions to potential burial sites. Despite those efforts, 315 Kuwaitis and third-country nationals remain unaccounted for, according to ICRC figures, including 308 persons on the list presented by Kuwait.

36. With regard to missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, Iraq has recovered 200,000 books, which were returned to the Kuwaiti national library in October 2019 with the assistance of UNAMI. In July 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq handed over to the State of Kuwait various property, including a sword, two historical copies of the Holy Qur'an and 738 boxes containing items belonging to the Ministry of Information of Kuwait. The return of the national archives and other missing Kuwaiti property, however, remain outstanding. In August 2023, UNAMI recommended to both Iraq and Kuwait that they reactivate the joint Iraq-Kuwait technical committee on missing Kuwaiti property and establish an inventory of missing items to facilitate the search for the missing property.

37. Pursuant to paragraph 6 (b) of resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#), in which the Security Council requested that I make recommendations for an appropriate follow-on mechanism and present them to the Council, and paragraph 5 of resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#), in which the Council expressed its "intention to review the modalities of the reporting" of that resolution "upon the eventual termination of [the Mission's mandate]", I invited the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, through identical letters dated 31 January 2025, to provide me with written views on the matter.

38. The Government of Kuwait, responding in a letter dated 17 February, stressed the "pivotal role" of the Security Council in "addressing" the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains, and the return of missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, "starting with resolution [686 \(1991\)](#), and subsequently resolution [1284 \(1999\)](#), which established a follow-up mechanism through the appointment of a High-Level Coordinator to follow these files and submit periodic reports to the Security Council in order to enhance the implementation process and ensure progress". Kuwait emphasized that 308 persons remain missing, and that its national archives, "which constitute a record of" the country's "national memory and identity", have yet to be recovered. Kuwait further stressed the "importance of the Security Council in continuing to follow up on these issues, through periodic reports submitted to it, in a way that ensures the implementation of international obligations stipulated in the relevant Security Council resolutions and contributes to fostering cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq". Kuwait also noted that the former High-Level Coordinator mechanism had been "successful in identifying 236 Kuwaiti prisoners, missing persons and third-country nationals, as well as the return of important Kuwaiti properties during the period 1999–2013". Kuwait attributed these results to the "fact that the mandate of the High-level Coordinator was confined solely to following up on the files of the prisoners, missing persons and the return of property." Kuwait stressed that "in this context, the reappointment of a High-level Coordinator is the best option to ensure the achievement of tangible results, given the efficiency and effectiveness that this mechanism has proven in the past".

39. The Government of Iraq, responding in a letter dated 18 March, stressed its determination and commitment to end all outstanding issues with Kuwait, including through the "recent appointment of a special envoy to the State of Kuwait to discuss the settlement of all bilateral issues and to strengthen the work of the Iraq-Kuwait joint committee and the legal and technical committee charged with completing the demarcation of the maritime borders between both countries". Iraq affirmed its "firm position that the demarcation of the maritime borders should be addressed within bilateral frameworks". Iraq further affirmed its "principled" position that there is "no need to establish a new mechanism by the Security Council regarding the situation

between Iraq and Kuwait”, while welcoming my good offices “to strengthen the existing bonds of cooperation and to reach a final agreement on all outstanding issues pertaining to the missing persons, property and national archives file”. In order to finalize the file of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, Iraq proposed that, subject to bilateral consultations and under my auspices, Iraq and Kuwait could each form a “national body tasked with the search for Kuwaiti missing persons and archives”, or that Kuwait could “establish a station inside the Kuwaiti Embassy in Baghdad”. Iraq also proposed that the Tripartite Commission, chaired by ICRC, should intensify its efforts to follow up on missing persons and asked that Kuwait provide a list of all missing “properties and Emiri archives that Iraq has not [yet] returned”. Iraq also requested in its letter that the “[United Nations] search for the remains of Iraqis missing as a result of the Second Gulf War in 1991”.

40. I am grateful to Iraq and Kuwait for their views on the issue. I have carefully considered their views and developed my recommendations concerning an appropriate follow-on mechanism as described below, having determined that these issues are unlikely to be resolved upon the termination of the mandate of UNAMI.

## **V. Observations**

41. I welcome the commitment and continued efforts of the members of the Tripartite Commission under the leadership of the ICRC to search for, identify and return the remains of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals.

42. In that respect, I welcome the two transfers of bone fragments from Iraq to Kuwait for DNA testing, with the support of ICRC and UNAMI support. I encourage such transfers to continue to be carried out promptly whenever human remains are found. I also trust that the training provided to Iraqi and Kuwaiti experts by the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, with the support of ICRC and UNAMI, will prove effective and fruitful. I encourage the Iraqi and Kuwaiti experts who participated in the training exercise to draw valuable lessons from this experience.

43. I am encouraged by the commitment of the Government of Iraq, in particular the work conducted by the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, as well as the Office of the Prime Minister, to pursue witness testimony and increase field missions in order to carry out excavation and other activities to identify potential burial sites. The continued broadcast of calls for witnesses to come forward and the allocation of financial rewards for witness testimony relevant to the search for missing persons remain important tools in this respect. I reiterate my call to Iraq to redouble its efforts concerning the presumed burial sites in Samawah and Khamisiyah, where a large number of missing persons are believed to be buried, as well as my call to speedily explore additional sites.

44. I welcome the reactivation of the Iraq-Kuwait joint committee on missing Kuwaiti property and reiterate my call upon the Government of Iraq to intensify its efforts to locate and return the remaining missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

45. I thank ICRC for its leadership and assistance to the members of the Tripartite Commission, including its deployment of a consultant to advance the search for burial sites.

46. As the Mission nears the end of its mandate on 31 December 2025, I should like to reiterate the determination of the United Nations and UNAMI to promote, support and facilitate further progress on this file. I hope that these efforts, to be carried out



in close cooperation with and supported by all parties concerned, will bring positive results.

47. Regrettably, despite the commendable efforts and goodwill of all partners, including the Tripartite Commission, ICRC and the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, outstanding issues remain. There are still 315 Kuwaiti and third-country nationals who are unaccounted for, of whom 308 are on the list provided by Kuwait. The families of the missing deserve closure after waiting for more than three decades to learn the fate of their loved ones. Outstanding issues also remain in relation to the recovery and return of Kuwaiti missing property, including the national archives.

48. In the light of the above, I am committed to advancing a final resolution to this important humanitarian file following the end of the Mission's mandate on 31 December 2025. Iraq and Kuwait have both expressed their strong commitment and determination to finalize the Kuwaiti missing persons, property and national archives file. In addition, Iraq has requested United Nations assistance in the search for missing Iraqis from the 1991 Gulf War. Both countries have indicated that they fully recognize the humanitarian and societal dimensions of this important issue. The Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, however, have expressed differing views on the modalities for the continuation of efforts to make further progress and ultimately resolve this humanitarian file upon the conclusion of the mandate of UNAMI. In that connection, I offered my good offices to both parties when I participated in the summit of the League of Arab States on 17 May.

49. Having carefully considered the views provided to me by the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, I believe that, absent an agreement between Iraq and Kuwait to establish a bilateral mechanism on this important file, continued United Nations assistance could help ensure further progress towards settling this long-standing humanitarian issue.

50. In the light of the above, and in accordance with paragraph 6 (b) of resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#), in which I am requested to make recommendations on an appropriate follow-on mechanism, and paragraph 5 of resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#), in which the Security Council expresses its "intention to review the modalities of the reporting referred to in operative paragraph 4 of this resolution, upon the eventual termination of [the mandate of UNAMI], with a view towards considering a continued role for the United Nations in such matters if needed", I recommend the following two options for the consideration of the Security Council: (a) the Council may request that I appoint a senior representative acting on my behalf and tasked exclusively with continuing this important mandate; (b) the Security Council may request that an appropriate Secretariat department and/or a senior official of the Secretariat assume this mandate.

51. The two States may at any time decide to establish a bilateral arrangement and inform the Security Council accordingly. I hope that these recommendations will help facilitate a decision by the Security Council on how best to further progress towards the final resolution of this important issue.

52. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to my Special Representative for Iraq and Head of UNAMI, my Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance and UNAMI staff, who remain fully committed to continuing to support the efforts of the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, the Tripartite Commission and other partners in advancing work with regard to this important file until the termination of the Mission's mandate.