



In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

No. 2861289

9 April 2026

Excellency,

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to you with reference to the letter dated 28 March 2026 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2026/243), which transmits, in its attachment, the “Declaration” of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects the baseless allegations and misleading narrative advanced by the United Arab Emirates, including the claim of a “purported closure” of the Strait of Hormuz. The assertions of the United Arab Emirates seek to misattribute the current maritime situation to the Islamic Republic of Iran, while disregarding the true sources and root causes of the crisis—namely, the war of aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime.

In this regard, I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to the following:

1. The current situation affecting maritime safety and security in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and adjacent maritime areas is the direct result of the armed conflict and military aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The current maritime situation cannot be assessed in isolation from that causal and legal context. Any approach that isolates consequences from causes, reverses the roles of victim and aggressor, and seeks to mobilise technical maritime fora for selective political ends is legally and institutionally corrosive and risks further escalation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently emphasised that maritime safety and freedom of navigation are best protected through strict respect for the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations—most notably the prohibition on the threat or use of force—and through restraint and responsible conduct by all parties.



2. The outcome of the International Maritime Organization invoked by the United Arab Emirates is procedurally irregular and institutionally contested. Any attempt to treat the IMO Council's declaration as a settled and technically grounded determination is unsustainable. The Council's own record confirms that rule 58 was invoked to suspend essential safeguards, including the one-month notice requirement and the one-month timeframe for the circulation of the provisional agenda and supporting documents. Such procedural manoeuvres cannot lawfully override the Organization's constitutive instrument. The Islamic Republic of Iran recalls that rule 59 of the Council's Rules of Procedure expressly affirms the hierarchy of norms within the Organization by providing that, in the event of any inconsistency between the Rules of Procedure and the IMO Convention, the Convention shall prevail; consequently, reliance on procedural waivers cannot be used to derogate from Convention-based safeguards, including the notice requirement set out in Article 19(c).

The Islamic Republic of Iran further notes that the Council of the International Maritime Organization proceeded to adopt a politically consequential declaration on matters lying at the core of maritime safety, navigation risks and the protection of seafarers without first obtaining the views of the competent technical committees, contrary to the institutional sequence reflected in Article 21(c) of the IMO Convention.

It is equally significant that the IMO Council itself recorded that some delegations expressed concerns regarding the wording of elements of the declaration and considered that, "in its present form", it was neither balanced, inclusive, nor constructive. This acknowledgement, reflected in the official record of the International Maritime Organization, confirms that the declaration transmitted by the United Arab Emirates cannot be presented as an objective, inclusive and technically coherent expression of the Organization, nor, *a fortiori*, can it serve as a basis for any decision-making within the United Nations.

3. The International Maritime Organization is a specialised technical organisation. It is not vested with the authority to determine responsibility for inter-State uses of force, to validate contested geopolitical narratives, or to issue condemnations detached from the Organization's technical mandate and from the factual and legal realities on the ground. The Islamic Republic of



Iran has therefore rejected the declaration and related decisions as one-sided, selective and institutionally *ultra vires*, and has stressed that such acts cannot be regarded as producing valid legal or institutional effects.

4. The Islamic Republic of Iran rejects the allegation of a “purported closure” of the Strait of Hormuz. It has consistently affirmed that the Strait remains open to international navigation. At the same time, the unlawful aggression and the exceptional and unprecedented security conditions it has created have given rise to an emergency situation and heightened risks in and around this strategic waterway, with direct implications for maritime safety and security.

In these circumstances, and in light of the ongoing armed conflict, and in full conformity with established principles and rules of international law, the Islamic Republic of Iran has implemented provisional, necessary and proportionate measures aimed at preserving maritime safety and security and preventing the misuse of navigation for hostile purposes. In particular, in view of the ongoing armed conflict and the operational realities arising therefrom, vessels of belligerent States, or those supporting or participating in the ongoing hostilities, are subject to such measures in accordance with applicable international law, including the law of armed conflict at sea.

As regards vessels of other States, their passage takes place in accordance with the relevant security and control arrangements of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in coordination with its competent authorities, with a view to ensuring the safety of navigation, providing necessary services and minimising risks. In this context, the passage of vessels is currently taking place and continues under these arrangements.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates that these measures are grounded in its inherent right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as in the principles of necessity and proportionality, and are contingent upon the cessation of hostilities. It has further envisaged that, following such cessation, a framework for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be developed in coordination with the Sultanate of Oman, and has indicated that the International Maritime Organization will be kept informed of relevant developments.



5. The Islamic Republic of Iran notes that, in the process of the International Maritime Organization, it formally brought to the attention of the Council concrete maritime consequences arising from the unlawful use of force thereagainst, including attacks and disruptions affecting maritime medical response and search and rescue services, damage to civilian vessels and maritime safety infrastructure, disruption of vessel traffic services and maritime monitoring systems, and interference affecting navigation systems. Any credible discussion of the protection of seafarers and maritime risk must proceed from this causal and operational reality; selective narratives are no substitute for effective maritime risk management.

In light of the foregoing, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon the Security Council to focus on preventing further escalation and addressing the root causes of instability that place seafarers and international shipping at risk—namely, the ongoing unlawful use of force and military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran—while upholding Iran’s rights and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and directing efforts towards the cessation of the conflict and the restoration of stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Amir Saeid Iravani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Cc:
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