



Foreign Ministers' Meeting Communiqué
(Capri, April 19, 2024)

SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. Iran

We, the G7 Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and the High Representative of the European Union, condemn in the strongest terms Iran's direct and unprecedented attack against Israel of April 13-14, which Israel defeated with the help of its partners. This was a dangerous escalation, as Iran fired hundreds of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones.

We also condemn the Iranian boarding and seizure, in breach of international law, of the Portuguese flagged merchant vessel MSC Aries by armed personnel, which occurred while the merchant vessel was sailing near the Strait of Hormuz. We call for the immediate release of the vessel, its crews and cargo.

Israel and its people have our full solidarity and support and we reaffirm our commitment towards Israel's security. Iran's actions mark an unacceptable step towards the destabilization of the region and a further escalation, which must be avoided. In light of reports of strikes on April 19th, we urge all parties to work to prevent further escalation. The G7 will continue to work to this end.

We call on all parties, both in the region and beyond, to offer their positive contribution to this collective effort.

We call on Iran to refrain from providing support to Hamas and taking further actions that destabilize the Middle East, including support for Lebanese Hezbollah and other non-state actors. Iran's continued provision of arms and related materiel to the Houthis in violation of UNSCR 2216 and to other non-state actors in the region are dangerously increasing tensions. We call on all countries to prevent the supply of components or other items to Iran's UAV and missile programmes.

We demand that Iran and its affiliated groups cease their attacks. We will hold the Iranian government accountable for its malicious and destabilizing actions and we stand ready to adopt further sanctions or take other measures, now and in response to further destabilizing initiatives.

We reiterate our determination that Iran must never develop or acquire a nuclear weapon. We urge Iran to cease and reverse nuclear escalations and to stop the continuing uranium enrichment activities reported by IAEA in the framework provided by UNSCR 2231 that have no credible civil justification and pose significant proliferative risks. Tehran must reverse this trend and engage in serious dialogue, returning to full cooperation with the IAEA to enable it to provide assurances that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively peaceful. We support IAEA's monitoring and verification role regarding Iran's nuclear-related obligation and commitments and express strong concern about Iran's current lack of cooperation with the Agency.

We are extremely concerned by reports that Iran is considering transferring ballistic missiles and related technology to Russia. We call on Iran not to do so, as it would represent a substantive material escalation in its support for Russia's war in Ukraine. Were Iran to proceed with providing ballistic missiles or related technology to Russia, we are prepared to respond in a swift and coordinated manner, including with new and significant measures against Iran.

40 We reiterate our deep concern over Iran’s human rights violations and abuses, especially against women,
41 girls and minority groups, and in light of the first report issued on March 8 by the Independent
42 International Fact-Finding Mission established by the Human Rights Council, which said that certain
43 violations against “Women, Life, Freedom” protestors amounted to crimes against humanity.

44 We strongly reject Iran’s targeting and arbitrary arrest of dual and foreign citizens and call on Iran’s
45 leadership to end all unjust and arbitrary detentions. We condemn Iran’s harassment, intimidation and
46 plots to kill perceived dissidents and opponents of the regime overseas, including journalists and religious
47 figures, as well as the targeting of Jewish individuals and institutions.

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49 **2. Conflict in Gaza**

50 We condemn in the strongest terms the brutal terrorist attacks conducted by Hamas and other
51 terrorist groups against Israel that began on October 7, 2023. In exerting its right to defend itself, Israel
52 must fully comply with international law, including international humanitarian law. Hamas must release
53 all hostages immediately and unconditionally. We continue to press for the full investigation of the
54 horrific reports of sexual violence committed by Hamas and other terrorist groups and for perpetrators
55 to be held accountable.

56 We deplore all losses of civilian lives and note with great concern the unacceptable number of civilians,
57 including thousands of women, children and persons in vulnerable situations who have been killed in
58 Gaza. We call for urgent action to address the devastating and growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza,
59 particularly the plight of civilians throughout the territory. We reiterate our opposition to a full scale
60 military operation in Rafah that would have catastrophic consequences on the civilian population. We
61 reiterate our call for a credible and actionable plan to protect the civilian population there and address
62 their humanitarian needs. We are deeply concerned by the internal displacement within Gaza and the risk
63 of forcible displacement from Gaza. Israel must act in compliance with its obligations under international
64 law and treat individuals humanely and with dignity, and should thoroughly and transparently investigate
65 credible allegations of wrongdoing and ensure accountability for any abuses or violations.

66 We underscore the urgent need for specific, concrete, and measurable steps to significantly increase the
67 flow of aid into Gaza in light of imminent risk of famine for a majority of Gaza’s population. We urge
68 the rapid implementation of steps announced by the Government of Israel including the commitment to
69 expand flow of aid through existing land crossings, opening new land crossings, and facilitating aid to
70 northern Gaza where humanitarian needs are most acute, including by opening more routes into Gaza.
71 We welcome efforts to establish a maritime corridor to further increase the flow of much-needed
72 humanitarian assistance into Gaza, in coordination with the United Nations. We reiterate that such
73 corridors must complement and not be a substitute to expanded and sustained assistance flows by land.

74 Securing full, rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access in all its forms remains an absolute priority.
75 We call on Israel to do more to ensure protection of international and local humanitarian aid workers,
76 journalists, and Palestinian civilians, to improve humanitarian deconfliction, including communications,
77 and to pursue full accountability, as appropriate, for incidents of harm against aid workers and civilians.
78 We call on all parties to allow the unimpeded delivery of aid, including food, water, medical care,
79 electricity, fuel, shelter, as well as facilitate the restoration of basic services and ensure access for
80 humanitarian workers. All parties must protect civilians, especially those most vulnerable, particularly
81 women, children, and people with disabilities, consistent with international humanitarian law.

82 Since the onset of the crisis, the G7 has been among the largest providers of assistance to the affected
83 population in Gaza. We reiterate our intention to continue doing so and we call on all our partners to
84 strengthen their efforts. We welcome the initiative “Food for Gaza” launched by Italy together with FAO,
85 WFP and IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society), aimed at better
86 meeting the urgent demand for food security and primary health of the population.

87 We recognize the crucial role played by UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in delivering
88 assistance. UNRWA has a vital role in the Gaza humanitarian response. We welcome the swift decision
89 by the UN Secretary General to initiate an immediate investigation on UNRWA to provide full
90 transparency on the serious allegations against its staff and to appoint an independent review group also
91 in view of the implementation of the needed reforms. We agreed it is critical that UNRWA and other
92 UN organizations and agencies' distribution networks be fully able to deliver aid to those who need it
93 most, fulfilling their mandate effectively.
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95 We call for an immediate release of hostages and a sustainable ceasefire that allows for a surge of the
96 urgently needed humanitarian assistance to be delivered safely throughout Gaza. In this context, we
97 strongly support the ongoing mediation efforts undertaken by the United States and regional partners to
98 that aim, respected by all parties, leading to a sustainable cessation of hostilities, in order to facilitate the
99 immediate return of all hostages, a surge of assistance and for the urgent implementation of UNSC
100 resolutions 2712, 2720, and 2728. Hamas' refusal to release hostages is only prolonging the conflict and
101 the suffering of civilians.

102 We welcome the new Palestinian Authority cabinet and remain ready to support the Palestinian Authority
103 as it undertakes the reforms that are indispensable to enable it to take up its responsibilities in the
104 aftermath of the conflict, in both Gaza and the West Bank.

105 We are also working, including by imposing sanctions and other measures, to deny Hamas the ability to
106 raise funds to carry out further atrocities. Likewise, we will also continue our work to fight against the
107 dissemination of terrorist content online.

108 All parties must refrain from unilateral actions that undermine the prospect of a two-state solution. We
109 are concerned by rising levels of settlers' violence. Extremist settlers responsible for violent acts against
110 Palestinian communities must be brought to account.

111 A viable solution to the conflict can only be the result of a coordinated regional effort. We remain
112 committed to a lasting and sustainable peace based on a two-State solution and the establishment of an
113 independent Palestinian state with security guarantees for Israel and the Palestinians. We call for
114 upholding unchanged the historic status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem. We concur that the final
115 territory of a Palestinian state should be defined through negotiations based on 1967-lines. We note that
116 the recognition of a Palestinian state, at the appropriate time, would be a crucial component of that
117 political process.

118 We are working intensively – along with partners in the region – to prevent the conflict from escalating
119 further. We are particularly concerned by the situation along the Blue Line. We recognize the essential
120 stabilizing role played by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon
121 (UNIFIL) in mitigating that risk. We urge all involved to exercise restraint and to work toward de-
122 escalation.

123 We oppose all discrimination and violence based on religion or belief and we call for effective protection
124 of all members of religious minority groups. We strongly reject all forms of antisemitism and anti-Muslim
125 hatred.

126 **3. Freedom of Navigation in the Red Sea**

127 We condemn the attacks perpetrated by the Houthis against commercial vessels transiting the
128 Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and the navy ships protecting them. We are greatly concerned by the deaths
129 of three innocent mariners aboard the *True Confidence* and the sinking of the *Rubymar*, which created
130 a navigational hazard and a serious environmental threat. We call for the immediate release by the Houthis
131 of the *Galaxy Leader* and its crew, seized on 19th November 2023. In line with UNSCR 2722, we reiterate
132 our support for countries that exercise the right to defend their vessels from attacks, in accordance with
133 international law. We also call for continued international involvement in close cooperation with the

134 United Nations and coastal states, as well as with regional and sub-regional organizations to prevent
135 further escalation with possible multidimensional consequences.

136 We welcome the continued efforts of the EU maritime operation “Aspides” and of the U.S.-led operation
137 “Prosperity Guardian” along with UK and 10 other countries to protect these crucial shipping lanes.

138 We are concerned by the hindrance to the transit of energy supplies, raw materials and other commodities
139 through the Red Sea. The countries most negatively affected by the Houthis’ attacks include those in the
140 region. Maritime security and navigational rights and freedoms are critical to ensuring free movement of
141 essential commodities to destinations and populations all over the world. This includes delivery of life-
142 saving humanitarian assistance to more than half the population of Yemen and to Sudan and Ethiopia.

143 **4. Yemen**

144 We express great concern for the situation in Yemen, notably for the humanitarian conditions of
145 the Yemeni civilian population. Yemeni parties must allow safe, rapid, and unimpeded access to all those
146 in need, halt requirements that restrict women’s freedom of movement and impede delivery of
147 humanitarian aid, and remove obstacles to the delivery of assistance, notably to the most vulnerable. All
148 parties must comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

149 We reiterate our strong support to the United Nations and to UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg for
150 his efforts to resolve the conflict in Yemen.

151 We welcome the understanding reached in December 2023 between the Presidential Leadership Council
152 and the Houthis that included a commitment on a set of measures to implement a nation-wide ceasefire
153 and to improve living conditions in the country. We urge all involved parties and in particular the Houthis
154 to engage in good faith in preparations for an inclusive political process in consultation with civil society
155 and under UN auspices.

156 We call for accountability for human rights violations, including grave violations of children’s rights, and
157 abuses and violations of international humanitarian law.

158 **5. Syria**

159 We remain committed to a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process, in line with UN Security
160 Council resolution 2254, and we fully support the mandate of the UN Special Envoy, Geir O. Pedersen.
161 We call on the Syrian regime to engage meaningfully with the UN-facilitated political process to achieve
162 a peaceful solution to the crisis and national reconciliation. Normalization, reconstruction and lifting of
163 sanctions would only be considered in the framework of a credible inclusive and enduring political
164 process consistent with UNSC resolution 2254. Stability and peace in Syria cannot be achieved without
165 the enduring defeat of Daesh. As members of the Global Coalition against Daesh we are committed to
166 ending Daesh’s presence in Syria.

167 We remain committed to advancing justice for victims and accountability for all actors responsible for
168 violations of international law in Syria, including international humanitarian law and international human
169 rights law. We reiterate our condemnation of the use that the Syrian régime has made of chemical
170 weapons in Syria. We continue to urge the Syrian regime to comply with its obligations under UNSCR
171 2118 and the Chemical Weapons Convention and to eliminate its chemical weapons programme
172 completely and verifiably.

173 We continue to call for the immediate release of all civilians arbitrarily detained and to clarify the fate of
174 those forcibly disappeared. We support the work of organizations such as the Commission of Inquiry
175 and the International Independent and Impartial Mechanism, which document the crimes perpetrated in
176 Syria. We stand ready to support the newly established UN Independent Institution for Missing Persons
177 in Syria.

178 We will continue to support the Syrian people through humanitarian assistance to meet their needs,
179 including early recovery assistance and measures fostering resilience, and demand that the regime
180 facilitate unhindered humanitarian access to all Syrians, including through UN cross-border humanitarian

181 assistance, for which there is no alternative. We remain grateful to regional countries for continuing to
182 host Syrian refugees, and we call upon the Syrian regime to create the conditions for voluntary, safe, and
183 dignified refugee returns.

184 The upcoming Eighth Brussels Conference on the Future of Syria and the Region is important in
185 maintaining a high level of engagement and mobilisation of the international community in this regard.