



Kingdom of the Netherlands

H.E. Mr. Zhang Jun
President of the Security Council

Cc: H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Permanent Mission of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands to
the United Nations

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Excellency,

I am writing to you in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of March, on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine.

With reference to Council resolution 2166 (2014) and my previous letters to the Council of 1 and 28 August 2014, 9 September and 16 December 2014; 20 July and 13 October 2015; 28 September 2016; 5 July 2017; 24 May and 25 May 2018; and 20 June 2019; I have the honor to inform you as follows.

Through the letter of 20 June 2019, the Council has previously been informed that four individuals, three of whom have Russian nationality and one Ukrainian nationality, have been charged with crimes for their role in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over the east of Ukraine on 17 July 2014. The criminal trial against these four suspects will start on 9 March 2020. The legal proceedings will take place under Dutch law before the District Court of The Hague. The hearings will be conducted at the Schiphol Judicial Complex. Given the international character of the proceedings, the Court will provide a livestream in both Dutch and English. Through this livestream (www.courtMH17.com), the hearings will be accessible worldwide.

The start of the criminal trial on 9 March 2020 marks an important milestone towards establishing the truth and achieving justice for the victims of Flight MH17 and their next of kin, and holding those responsible for the downing of Flight MH17 to account. Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine have full confidence that the abovementioned legal proceedings will contribute to achieving justice in accordance with the highest international legal standards of professionalism and independence.





Criminal investigations will continue, in parallel to this trial. I wish to recall that Security Council resolution 2166 demands that those responsible be held to account and that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability. The investigative authorities of Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine have been working together, since 2014, as part of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) conducting the independent and international criminal investigation into the downing of Flight MH17. The actions taken by the JIT and the Dutch Public Prosecution Service continue to implement Security Council resolution 2166.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Yours sincerely,



Karel J.G. van Oosterom
Ambassador
Permanent Representative