Mr. President,

We, the undersigned representatives of Austria, Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland (the Group of Like-Minded States on Targeted Sanctions), are writing to you on the issue of Security Council sanctions. Our group is strongly committed to the effective implementation of the Security Council’s sanctions regimes. The respect for international due process standards is key in this regard. However, as long as national and regional courts consider United Nations sanctions to fall short of the minimum standards of due process, national authorities may find themselves legally unable to implement them fully at the national level.

In the light of that, we would like to submit to the Security Council proposals for improving due process with regard to the Office of the Ombudsperson to the ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. We would also like to recall the letter of the Group of Like-minded States on Targeted Sanctions to the Security Council of 12 November 2015 (S/2015/867) concerning the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and which also encompasses due process proposals relating to other sanctions regimes than the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. The mandate of the Ombudsperson should thus ultimately be expanded to other appropriate sanctions regimes. These proposals remain valid to the extent they have not yet been implemented by Security Council sanctions resolutions.

We hope that Council members will find our proposals of interest, in particular in view of the preparation of a follow-up resolution to Security Council resolution 2368 (2017). We look forward to continuing and deepening the dialogue on this important matter with all stakeholders.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of our highest consideration.

H.E. Ambassador Jan Kickert
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations
H.E. Ambassador Milenko Skoknic Tapia
Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Rodrigo Alberto Carazo Zeledon
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Peter Lehmann Nielsen
Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations, Chargé d’Affaires a.i.

H.E. Ambassador Kai Sauer
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Christoph Heusgen
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Christian Wenaweser
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Liechtenstein to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Karel J.G. van Oosterom
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Tore Hattrem
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, Chargé d’Affaires a.i.

H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

Enclosure