

Minister  
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre  
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

November 10, 2023

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia, M.P.  
House of Commons  
[Francis.Scarpaleggia@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Francis.Scarpaleggia@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Mr. Scarpaleggia:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the context in which Global Affairs Canada uses the term “Persian Gulf” versus “Arabian Gulf.”

Global Affairs Canada adheres to internationally recognized terminology when referring to the body of water commonly known as the Persian Gulf. Examples of where Global Affairs Canada uses the term “Persian Gulf” includes official websites like Canada’s report on [China’s Economic-Steering Initiatives](#), and in official documents like trade commissioner reports, as well as in the final [Factual Analysis Report](#) by the Forensic Examination and Assessment Unit, which investigated the downing of Ukraine International Airways Flight 752 by Iran.

With respect to the use of the term “Arabian Gulf”, Global Affairs Canada used it on January 24, 2022, in a tweet that refers to the physical territory (i.e. not the body of water known as Persian Gulf) of Arabian countries that are in the Gulf. Global Affairs Canada issued the tweet in relation to incidents of attacks against those Arab countries in the Gulf by Houthi fighters.

For further clarity, when Global Affairs Canada references attacks, incidents or threats in the body of water, it uses the term “Persian Gulf,” but the term does not apply to the physical landmass of Arab countries.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.