



Security Council

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Letter dated 20 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The United States would like to share information with the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) regarding recent incidents where Iran again acted in defiance of paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). The United States requests that this statement be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

On the morning of 22 April, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps attempted to place a military satellite into orbit from a launch site in eastern Iran using a military space launch vehicle. The Corps confirmed that it had launched a satellite into low earth orbit. Iranian officials have made public statements boasting that the Corps has become a space force and that the launch is part of the space programme pursued by the Iranian armed forces.

Paragraph 3 of annex B states in relevant part that "Iran is called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology". Although not ballistic missiles, space launch vehicles incorporate technologies that are virtually identical to and interchangeable with those used in ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. The phrase "ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons" in paragraph 3 of annex B includes Missile Technology Control Regime category I systems. By definition, ballistic missile systems designed to be Missile Technology Control Regime category I systems, which are those capable of delivering a payload of at least 500 kg to a range of at least 300 km, are inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons. Therefore, launches of space launch vehicles, which rely on technology interchangeable with that of Missile Technology Control Regime category I ballistic missiles, are an activity that the Security Council has called upon Iran not to undertake.

This is the second time the United States has reported such a launch this year. Iran attempted a similar launch in February. We once again urge the international community to hold Iran accountable for its actions. Iran's further development of ballistic missile technology contributes to regional tension and poses a threat to international peace and security. When Iran chooses to defy the Security Council repeatedly without consequence, it undermines the fundamental credibility of the Council.



Moreover, Iran's repeated launches in defiance of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) demonstrate that the Council should consider reimposing the binding restrictions on such activity from Council resolution [1929 \(2010\)](#). Iran's continued defiance of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) means that the Council must strengthen existing sanctions on Iran to address the threat.

In addition, the Security Council must continue to insist on full implementation of the binding measures in resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) that restrict outside support to Iran's ballistic missile programme. All States Members of the United Nations have an obligation under that resolution not to supply, sell or transfer to Iran certain ballistic missile-related items, materials, equipment, goods and technology absent advance, case-by-case approval from the Council. They also may not provide Iran with any technology, technical assistance or training, financial assistance, investment or brokering or other services related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology, or to the supply, sale, manufacture or use of certain ballistic missile-related items, materials, equipment, goods and technology absent advance, case-by-case Council approval. The Secretary-General's eighth report on the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) documents Member State reports of continued attempts by Iran to procure missile-usable equipment and technology in violation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), underscoring that Iran continues to flout its obligations under Council resolutions.

We ask that the Secretary-General take Iran's actions as described in this letter into account in his upcoming report on the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

(Signed) **Kelly Craft**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative