

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 24 May 2023 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 18 May 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations ([S/2023/362](#)) and the joint letter dated 22 May 2023 from the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2023/368](#)), wherein the representatives of these three countries, in continuation of their repeated and baseless accusations and spread of misinformation, have once more attempted to level unsubstantiated claims against the Islamic Republic of Iran and accuse Iran of violating Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Further to our previous communications, including letters dated 7 January, 5 July, 19 and 24 October, and 6 and 7 December 2022 ([S/2022/15](#), [S/2022/544](#), [S/2022/776](#), [S/2022/794](#), [S/2022/915](#) and [S/2022/923](#)), I would like to reiterate Iran's clear and consistent position in this regard, as following:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects and unequivocally condemns the baseless accusations presented in the letters that assert Iran's non-compliance with resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Furthermore, Iran firmly rejects the persistent pattern of spreading false information and fabrications by the authors of these letters, specifically targeting Iran. It is abundantly clear that these baseless allegations seek not only to intentionally mislead the international community but also to manipulate the mandate of the United Nations Secretariat for the sole purpose of serving their own political interests, despite the fact that these certain States have ignored their own non-compliance with resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Iran regards these ongoing accusations as a cynical attempt by the authors to cover up their significant non-compliance with their commitments under the resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as well as their failure to take appropriate actions to compensate for the damages resulting from the United States' illegitimate withdrawal from the JCPOA. Iran reiterates again that it has consistently adhered to the provisions of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and has not engaged in any activity that violates this resolution.

2. The claims regarding transferring weapons to one of the parties involved in the Yemen conflict and linking them to Security Council resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#) based on the so-called "evidence from HMS Lancaster maritime interdiction in the Gulf of Oman," are totally unfounded. The alleged and so-called evidence and documents attached to the letter ([S/2023/362](#)) are utterly distorted, falsified, and devoid of any legal validity. Iran previously responded to and rejected this allegation



in a letter dated 22 March 2023 (S/2023/217). There is no evidence linking the vessels and their cargo to Iran, and there is no clear indication suggesting Iran as the origin of those allegedly seized missile components. Furthermore, the document from the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom primarily consists of subjective opinions without substantial proof. Also, the British authorities themselves admit to incomplete procedures and ongoing assessments, indicating a hasty and unsupported approach that undermines the certainty, validity, and impartiality of their conclusions. These actions suggest a politically motivated nature behind their claims, and it is not the first instance of these certain States promoting technical falsehoods and fabrications against Iran.

3. The unscrupulous attempt to establish an illusory link between the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the conflict in Ukraine and Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) to accuse Iran of violating this resolution is misleading and entirely unfounded. When carefully examined, the alleged “evidence from Ukraine” and the associated fraudulent charges lack credibility. The claims are conducted without credible arguments supporting the allegations of violations of resolution 2231 (2015). The evidence presented consists of poorly identifiable debris of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), inconsistent photographs, and questionable “open-source” information and visual comparisons, conducted by the US Defence Intelligence Agency. It is evident that the photographs of components and debris do not bear any indications linking them to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

4. The claim regarding paragraph 4 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015) is an incorrect and unilateral interpretation of the letter and spirit of that paragraph. Paragraph 4 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015) clearly refers to restrictions of “... items, materials, equipment, goods, and technology that the State determines could contribute to the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems”. Iran never manufactured or supplied nor does it intend to manufacture or supply items, materials, equipment, goods, and technology that it determines could contribute to the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems.

5. On the claim regarding paragraph 3 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015), the authors invoked the non-consensual and non-universally agreed definitions of the Missile Technology Control Regime, and disseminated technical disinformation and similar methods to establish a possible link between paragraph 3 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015) and Iran’s missiles and space launch vehicles. Such fallacious logic is technically false and based solely on wrong assumptions. On numerous occasions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made it crystal clear that its missile and space programs, including the launches of ballistic missiles or space launch vehicles, fall outside the purview or competence of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) and its annexes. Furthermore, paragraph 3 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015) is crystal clear and needs no interpretation. Contrary to the claims made in the above-mentioned letters, paragraph 3 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015), which calls upon Iran “not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology”, does not concern the space launch vehicles for a number of reasons: firstly, there is no explicit reference to “space launch vehicles” therein; secondly, space launch vehicles do not incorporate technologies identical to “ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons”; thirdly, space launch vehicles, which are exclusively designed to place satellites into orbit, are not “designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons”; and fourthly, space launch vehicles are not capable of delivering nuclear weapons. It must also be stressed that there is no implicit or explicit reference in that paragraph to the Missile Technology Control Regime itself. Therefore, any reference thereto is totally inaccurate and misleading. Moreover, the Missile Technology Control Regime is an exclusive “informal political

understanding” among only 35 States, and its criteria are not legally binding, even for its members. Accordingly, any attempt to characterize the MTC regime and its criteria as the universally accepted definition or international consensus-based agreement is unethical, deceptive, suspicious, and unacceptable. I must again reiterate our consistent position that Iran’s space and missile programs, fall outside the purview and competence of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

6. The recurrent and unwarranted call for the Secretariat to investigate the alleged violation of resolution 2231 lacks a legal basis. Neither resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) nor the relevant Note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2016/44](#)) authorizes such an unlawful mandate. In this regard, Iran has already objected to such an illicit request and has warned the Secretariat against both violating its mandate and the detrimental consequences of abusing format [2231 \(2015\)](#) to further the political agendas of certain Member States ([S/2022/776](#), [S/2022/794](#), [S/2022/915](#)). We reiterate our call to the Secretariat of the United Nations to diligently fulfil its mandate, as outlined in the note of the President of the Security Council ([S/2016/44](#)). It is also imperative that the Secretariat upholds the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and resists succumbing to the influence exerted by certain States acting in bad faith. The Secretariat must refrain from legitimizing baseless and politically motivated claims lacking proper substantiation.

7. I categorically reject the identical baseless allegations made against my Country by certain Member States during the UN Security Council briefings on “Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine” and “Threats to international peace and security” held on May 15th and 18th, 2023 ([S/PV.9321](#) and [S/PV.9325](#)). Iran has consistently upheld its commitments and maintains a clear and consistent position on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zahra Ershadi
Ambassador
Chargé d’affaires