



Security Council

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Letter dated 5 June 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to our letter dated 23 May 2023 ([S/2023/373](#)), as well as numerous previous communications on the implementation of paragraph 3 of annex B to Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), I would like to once again reiterate the principled position of the Russian Federation on this issue in connection with the letter from the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations dated 31 May 2023 ([S/2023/398](#)).

It is deeply regrettable that these States yet again attempt to spread disinformation concerning Iran's activities in order to level unsubstantiated and politically motivated accusations of its alleged inconsistency with paragraph 3 of annex B to Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Such an approach raises more and more concerns that these States intend to mislead the Council and impose upon the international community faulty, legally and technically unsound assessments with the sole purpose of shifting the blame for the current situation around the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action onto the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to conceal the real reasons for the ongoing crisis regarding its implementation, namely, the unilateral withdrawal of the United States of America from the "nuclear deal" in 2018, as well as their own serious violations of relevant obligations.

It is revealing that the letter in question once again contains far-fetched subjective references, such as "according to media reports", "we assess" and "potential applications", to name a few. However, it does not prevent the representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom from claiming that the recent actions by Iran are "inconsistent with paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)", despite the absence of any solid grounds for such a heavy accusation.

Moreover, these States continue to resort to erroneous logic and invalid arguments with the view of promoting their narrative. It is essential to recall the common wisdom that a lie repeated does not become the truth. We would like to underscore that none of the existing international instruments and mechanisms, including the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, either directly or implicitly prohibit Iran from developing missile and space programmes. France, Germany and the United Kingdom once again attempt to misuse the criteria prescribed under the Control Regime, which is an informal political understanding between 35 States on export-control issues. The category I parameters of the Control Regime annex are a mere reference tool for exporting States and have no connection to the implementation of resolution [2231](#)



(2015), including the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Therefore, the Control Regime criteria cannot be used to determine whether specific ballistic missiles are designed to be capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Moreover, the repeated assertion that category I systems are recognized as being “the systems of most concern” is a purposeful misstatement. The Missile Technology Control Regime guiding principles clearly state that the category I systems are the “items of greatest sensitivity” which is a substantially different term. Assessing them through the terms of “long-standing international consensus” is yet another disinformation attempt, since the principles themselves are relevant only for the above-mentioned 35 States and those countries who voluntarily expressed their commitment to them.

Furthermore, the letter from the European delegations references Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) with respect to the Missile Technology Control Regime, which is absolutely irrelevant in this context, since this mechanism of cooperation, rather than coercion, has no relation to Iran’s missile programme and has never been aimed at imposing restrictions on it. We would like to recall that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of that resolution, “all States, in accordance with their national procedures, shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes”, which clearly indicates that the mentioning of resolution 1540 (2004) in the letter has nothing to do with the question raised by the delegations of France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Russia has always attached utmost importance to the Missile Technology Control Regime and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and is committed to the full implementation of their respective obligations. We find it highly irresponsible that France, Germany and the United Kingdom continue to abuse the Control Regime and resolution 1540 (2004) to promote a far-fetched and misleading conclusion that the Iranian systems are “inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons”.

However, in reality, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never possessed nuclear weapons, nor does it possess these weapons now, nor, we expect, will it ever possess them in the future. Even when the integrity of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was challenged by the irresponsible and destructive actions of other Member States, Iran expressed a willingness to retain the Plan of Action and continues to be actively engaged with the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is deplorable that European delegations continue to bring biased claims against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which are clearly detrimental to multilateral efforts to facilitate the full restoration of the Plan of Action.

Since no viable information to the contrary has ever been provided to the Security Council, the Russian Federation continues to proceed from its previous assessment that Iran is respecting in good faith the relevant call addressed to it in paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015).

We would be grateful for the circulation of the present communication as a document of the Security Council and its full and thorough reflection in the upcoming report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia