



Security Council

Distr.: General
28 May 2020

Original: English

Letter dated 28 May 2020 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 16 March 2020 ([A/74/752-S/2020/212](#)), as well as numerous previous communications on the implementation of paragraph 3 of annex B to Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), I have the honour to once again reiterate the position of the Russian Federation on this issue in connection with the letter from the Permanent Representative of the United States, dated 20 May 2020 ([S/2020/428](#)).

In accordance with Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations shall promote, inter alia, “conditions of economic and social progress and development”. In Article 56, all Member States “pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55”.

In resolution [74/82](#) the General Assembly expressed its conviction that “space science and technology and their applications, including satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world”, and also stressed in that regard “the need to harness the benefits of space technology towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a member of the United Nations, is fully entitled to the advantages of space science and technology.

At the same time, none of the existing international instruments and mechanisms, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Missile Technology Control Regime, either directly or implicitly, prohibit Iran to peacefully explore space for the purposes of development.

Both the Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) itself and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action place no constraints on the rights and capacities of Iran to develop its national missile and space programmes.

The ongoing attempts of the United States side to deprive Iran of the right to reap the benefits of peaceful space technology under false pretexts are a cause for serious concern and profound regret.

The United States continued references to the Missile Technology Control Regime in order to “substantiate” their claims that Iranian space launch vehicles are allegedly capable of delivering nuclear weapons are not substantiated – there are no



references to the Missile Technology Control Regime in either the Plan of Action, or Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), including paragraph 3 of annex B. These attempts are nothing else but misleading: Iran has never possessed nuclear weapons, nor does it possess these weapons now, nor, we expect, will it ever possess them in the future. For the last few years since the adoption of the Plan of Action the Islamic Republic of Iran has been the most verified state by the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is an established fact that Iran does not possess, nor develop, nor test or use ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Given the above and since no viable information to the contrary has ever been provided to the Council, the Russian Federation continues to proceed from its previous assessment that Iran is respecting in good faith the call addressed to it in paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) to refrain from activities related to ballistic missiles that are designed to be capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

We would be grateful if the present communication could be circulated as a document of the Security Council and reflected in the upcoming report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
