

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 13 July 2022 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission 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 8 June 2022 ([S/2022/464](#)), as well as numerous previous communications on the implementation of paragraph 3 of annex B to Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), I would like once again to reiterate the position of the Russian Federation on this issue in connection with the identical letters from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations dated 24 June 2022 ([S/2022/514](#)).

We note with deep regret that the launch of a space launch vehicle by the Islamic Republic of Iran reported on 8 March 2022 is again used by the United States in the above-mentioned letter as a pretext to level unsubstantiated accusations that Iran continues to develop its ballistic missile programme in defiance of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

However, the fact that space launch vehicles cannot be equated to ballistic missiles has been acknowledged by the United States itself. In the letter in question, it explicitly states that space launch vehicles are not ballistic missiles. Still, despite our previous letters on this very matter, the United States continues to promote the far-fetched and misleading conclusion that 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.

If this faulty logic prevails, it would mean that any spacefaring nation could be accused of developing the means of delivery for weapons of mass destruction. In a similar vein, we oppose the continuous attempts to distort the nature and scope of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which is obviously considered by certain countries not as an informal political understanding between 35 States on export control issues, but as an instrument that restricts all countries in the world, apart from themselves, from developing space capabilities.

Moreover, despite the misleading claim contained in the letter from the United States that the phrase “ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons” in paragraph 3 of annex B to the resolution includes MTCR category I systems, we would like to reiterate that the category I parameters of the MTCR annex have never been intended to be used in the context of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), nor the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, including to ascertain whether or not specific ballistic missiles were designed to be capable of carrying nuclear weapons.



The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a member of the United Nations, is fully entitled to the advantages of space science and technology. None of the existing international instruments and mechanisms, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and MTCR, either directly or implicitly prohibit Iran from developing missile and space programmes. The interest of Iran in mastering space technology is in line with a global trend, with other Member States increasingly active in this field, so the attempts to single out Iranian activity and directly place it into a military context are clearly biased and misleading.

It is even more regrettable that the United States of America continues to promote these claims in contradiction to the spirit of the negotiations in Vienna and the very logic of multilateral efforts to facilitate the full restoration of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Meanwhile, despite the fact that the integrity of the “nuclear deal” had been challenged by irresponsible and destructive actions of other Member States, Iran has exercised restraint, demonstrated determination to uphold the non-proliferation regime and expressed its willingness to retain the Joint Comprehensive 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 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 for the circulation of this 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) Dmitry Polyanskiy
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
