



Security Council

Distr.: General
15 June 2023

Original: English

Letter dated 14 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

Referring to the letter by the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom dated 12 June 2023 (S/2023/428), as well as yet another attempt by some States to spread baseless accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the implementation of the Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) in the Council and beyond, and further to our numerous previous communications, including letters dated 13 July 2022 (S/2022/554), 29 November 2022 (S/2022/889), 6 December 2022 (S/2022/911), 7 December 2022 (S/2022/922), 23 May 2023 (S/2023/373) and 5 June 2023 (S/2023/410), I would like to reiterate the principled position of the Russian Federation in this regard.

We condemn in the strongest terms the continuous spreading by a small group of States of false allegations about so-called “violations” of resolution 2231 (2015), lacking any legal and technical ground. Those States, acting in bad faith, do not cease their attempts to deliberately mislead the international community by putting forward identical politically driven assertions, unsubstantiated insinuations and far-fetched conclusions about the Islamic Republic of Iran allegedly being in non-compliance with resolution 2231 (2015). Repeating false allegations does not make them truthful.

We would like to emphasize once again that 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, as envisaged by its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and resolution 2231 (2015), as well as highlighted by the ongoing cooperation between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

As for recurrent claims casting doubt on Iran’s compliance with paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015), as yet again manifested in the letter by the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom dated 12 June 2023, we would like to underline that these States continue to employ erroneous logic and invalid arguments contained in their previous communications, as highlighted by our letter dated 5 June 2023. It is worth recalling that none of the existing international treaties and mechanisms, including the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, either directly or implicitly prohibit the Islamic Republic of Iran to develop missile and space programmes. France, Germany and the United Kingdom continue their attempts to misuse the criteria prescribed by MTCR, which is an informal political understanding between 35 States on export-control issues. The category I parameters of the MTCR 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 MTCR criteria cannot be used to determine if specific ballistic missiles are designed to be capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Furthermore, the recurrent assertion that category I systems are recognized as being “the systems of most concern” is a deliberate misstatement. The MTCR 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.

In addition, the references to the Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) are absolutely irrelevant in this context, since this mechanism of cooperation, rather than coercion, has no relation to the Iran’s missile programme and has never been aimed at imposing restrictions on it. The Russian Federation has always attached utmost importance to MTCR and Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and is committed to full implementation of their respective obligations. We find it highly irresponsible that France, Germany and the United Kingdom keep abusing MTCR and resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) to promote far-fetched and misleading conclusions that the Iranian systems are “inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons”.

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 \(2015\)](#).

Moreover, as the above-mentioned letter contains a reference to so-called “transfer activities in violation of paragraph 4 of annex B of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)”, and in light of recent attempts of some other States to propagate the same allegations, we have to reiterate that all the relevant accusations, referring to some “assessments” and “suspicions” based on certain “open source” information, are not substantiated with any credible evidence. The opinions of certain expert organizations in no way can be regarded as substantive proofs of alleged “violations” of paragraph 4 of annex B. The arguments brought to underpin those claims do not withstand any scrutiny, as highlighted in detail by our letter dated 23 May 2023.

In addition, we would like to underline that the States propagating those claims still do not hide their attempts to manipulate the mandate of the Secretariat of the United Nations and to violate the Charter of the United Nations, namely paragraph 2 of its Article 100, as well as the note by the President of the Security Council dated 16 January 2016 on Security Council tasks under Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) ([S/2016/44](#)). They keep trying to give instructions to the Secretariat to conduct certain “inspections” of some pieces that they claim to be “evidence of violations” of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). We brought this inadmissible situation to the attention of the Security Council at its meeting on 26 October 2022, as well as by our letters dated 29 November 2022 ([S/2022/889](#)), 6 December 2022 ([S/2022/911](#)), 7 December 2022 ([S/2022/922](#)) and 23 May 2023 ([S/2023/373](#)).

In this context, we once again urge the Secretariat of the United Nations to strictly abide by its mandate, as set out in the above-mentioned note, to fully respect the Charter of the United Nations and not to yield to the pressure of some States trying to legitimize unsubstantiated and politically motivated assertions. We would like to reiterate that the Russian Federation would regard any non-mandated activity by the Secretariat, including inspections on the ground, as deliberate provocations aimed at undermining the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and the process of restoration of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

I would be grateful to have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
