



Security Council

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Letter dated 25 August 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 dated 4 August 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the United States ([S/2023/581](#)) spreading yet again unfounded insinuations about alleged transfers of unmanned aerial vehicles from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Russian Federation in “violation of United Nations Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)”, and further to our numerous previous communications, including letters dated 21 October 2022 ([S/2022/783](#)), 29 November 2022 ([S/2022/889](#)), 6 December 2022 ([S/2022/911](#)), 7 December 2022 ([S/2022/922](#)), 23 May 2023 ([S/2023/373](#)), 5 June 2023 ([S/2023/410](#)) and 14 June 2023 ([S/2023/440](#)), I would like to reiterate the principled position of the Russian Federation in this regard.

As was the case with the letters from the Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom, France and Germany circulated in the Council in May and June 2023, the claims contained in the above-mentioned letter by the United States are limited to some baseless allegations accompanied by speculative assumptions. The author of the letter in question strive to portray their fabrications as unappealable truth. However, this communication by the United States is just another confirmation that neither Washington, nor other capitals promoting this narrative, have anything to substantiate their accusations even after having spread them for more than nine months. As they refer to some “extensive, publicly available documentation, photographs and video”, “media reports” as well as “easily identifiable remnants”, the Russian Federation has already circulated detailed analysis regarding the groundless character of such allegations in its previous communications mentioned above.

Moreover, it is quite surprising to see the United States’ statement that it “continues to support full and effective implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions”. It is not even worth proving its hypocrisy, not only amid the background of the United States’ unilateral withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2018 and further attempts to undermine the full-fledged implementation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) but also in light of its ongoing attempts to give peremptory instructions to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat of the United Nations to conduct a so-called “investigation” of alleged breaches of paragraph 4 of Annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) in direct violation of Article 100 of the Charter of the United Nations and even to establish some artificial “deadlines” for undertaking such actions.

In this vein, as the United States assumes that the Secretary-General “should exercise without further delay his authority to order an investigation”, we would like



to help our United States colleagues once again to fill the gap in their knowledge regarding the mandate of the Secretariat in the context of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

The note by the President of the Security Council dated 16 January 2016 and entitled “Security Council tasks under Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)” ([S/2016/44](#)) sets an exhaustive list of tasks comprising the mandate of the Secretariat in its regard. Namely, its functions are solely technical and reduced to the following:

- To assist the facilitator in the organization and staffing of informal meetings of the Security Council
- To manage all incoming and outgoing communications and assist the facilitator in corresponding with Member States on behalf of the Security Council
- To draft correspondence, speaking notes and briefings of the facilitator
- To maintain and archive all information and documents relating to the Security Council’s work related to the implementation of the resolution
- To maintain and promote publicly available information on the restrictions imposed by the Security Council, including through the Council’s website and outreach activities.

In addition, paragraph 6 (f) of the above-mentioned note states in detail how the Secretariat provides administrative support for the Council’s review of recommendations from the Joint Commission, while paragraph 6 (g) stipulates that the Secretariat may perform any other task upon request from the Security Council. However, no such request has ever been submitted by the Security Council.

Meanwhile, the above-mentioned note ([S/2016/44](#)) clearly states in its paragraph 2 (a) that it is the Security Council itself that is responsible for monitoring the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Paragraphs 2 (c) and (d) stipulate that the Security Council, rather than the Secretariat, should answer enquiries from Member States regarding the implementation of the resolution and respond appropriately to information regarding alleged actions inconsistent with the resolution.

Thus, we would like to reiterate our expectation that the Secretariat of the United Nations will not yield to the persistent pressure exerted by the United States and some other States trying to legitimize their unsubstantiated and politically motivated assertions, and will strictly observe its mandate, as set in the above-mentioned note, and the Charter of the United Nations, abstaining from any engagement in any form in any “investigation” with regard to any claims of alleged violation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

I would be grateful for the circulation of the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
