

## **B. Non-proliferation**

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings under the item entitled “Non-proliferation”. Both meetings took the form of briefings.<sup>1055</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition to the meetings, Council members held informal consultations of the whole.<sup>1056</sup>

Under this item, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, and the representative of Ireland as the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

On 30 June 2021, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on the eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).<sup>1057</sup> During the briefing, the Under-Secretary-General noted that the context for the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) had improved considerably since the Council had met in December 2020.<sup>1058</sup> She also said that diplomatic efforts in Vienna offered a critical opportunity for both the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran to return to the full and effective implementation of the Plan and of the resolution. The Under-Secretary-General echoed the Secretary-General’s appeal to the United States to lift or waive its sanctions as outlined in the Plan, extend the waivers with regard to the trade in oil with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to once again facilitate nuclear-related activities consistent with the Plan and the resolution. Following the Under-Secretary-General, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations similarly welcomed the engagement of all JCPOA participants and the declared intention of the United States to rejoin the JCPOA. He noted that the European Union remained fully committed to the JCPOA and that it was determined to continue working with the international community to preserve the Plan. Notwithstanding his deep concern that the Islamic

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<sup>1055</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

<sup>1056</sup> See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 30. See also [S/2021/1032](#) and [S/2022/174](#).

<sup>1057</sup> See [S/2021/582](#).

<sup>1058</sup> See [S/PV.8811](#).

Republic of Iran continued to accumulate low-enriched uranium in excess of the JCPOA thresholds, the representative of the European Union took note of the Islamic Republic of Iran's reaffirmed position that it was ready to return to full JCPOA implementation. He expressed optimism that sufficient space for diplomacy would be granted in order to bring the JCPOA back on a path of full implementation in the very near future. In that regard, he acknowledged that the JCPOA continued to be a key component of the global non-proliferation architecture and helped reduce regional and global security risks.

The representative of Ireland, as the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), thanked all Council members for unanimously approving the eleventh report and noted that talks in Vienna offered the prospect of a return to the JCPOA by the United States and the full and effective implementation of the agreement by all parties. Elaborating on some aspects of the report, she mentioned that on 18 February, the United States had notified the Security Council ([S/2021/158](#)) that it had withdrawn its letters of 20 August 2020 ([S/2020/815](#)), 21 August 2020 ([S/2020/822](#)) and 21 September 2020 ([S/2020/927](#)), making clear the understanding of all Council members that resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) remained in effect in all its parts.<sup>1059</sup> Echoing the report of the Secretary-General, she added that there was a new environment as compared to six months prior. Talks in Vienna offered the prospect of a return to the JCPOA by the United States and the full and effective implementation of the agreement by all parties.<sup>1060</sup>

Some Council members expressed their regret at the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA in 2018,<sup>1061</sup> and welcomed the efforts for the United States to rejoin the Plan, to revitalize it and to ensure its full and transparent implementation.<sup>1062</sup> In that context, categorically rejecting all unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the representative of China hoped that the United States would pay attention and respond positively in the negotiations. Referring to the Secretary-General's eleventh report on the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), the representative of the United States noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran had continued its escalatory steps, including many that

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<sup>1059</sup> For further background on the letters submitted in 2020, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part V sect. II.

<sup>1060</sup> See [S/PV.8811](#).

<sup>1061</sup> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ireland and Norway.

<sup>1062</sup> Niger, China, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ireland, Kenya and Norway.

exceeded the JCPOA's nuclear limits. He added that the United States would continue to use all the tools at its disposal to counter the Islamic Republic of Iran's destabilizing activities in the region and to promote the implementation of Council resolutions to address Iranian conventional-weapons proliferation. Several Council members and participant also expressed concern about the Islamic Republic of Iran's decision in 2019 to start reducing its nuclear-related commitments under the Plan, and its continuation of nuclear developments and ballistic missile launches.<sup>1063</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation stated that a real revision of the decisions taken by the previous United States Administration had not been seen yet, and that all of the Islamic Republic of Iran's steps to temporarily freeze its commitments were a legitimate response to the non-compliance on the part of the United States with the deal. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed that it was the United States that had violated resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), reimposed countless inhumane sanctions and pursued a maximum pressure policy on his country. In that regard, he stated that the challenges of the JCPOA's implementation could not be assessed in isolation and that those challenges had arisen when the United States unlawfully withdrew from the JCPOA and waged an economic war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Stating that the Iranian nuclear issue had an impact on the situation in the Middle East while the JCPOA should not be directly linked to regional security issues, the representative of China reiterated the proposal made to establish a multilateral dialogue platform in the Gulf region as a way to encourage countries of the region to reach consensus on regional security issues through dialogue and consultation.<sup>1064</sup> Similarly, the representative of the Russian Federation also discussed regional security in the Persian Gulf for the future once the deal was fully restored.

On 14 December 2021, the Council held the second briefing for the year further to the reports in connection with this item.<sup>1065</sup> In her briefing, the Under-Secretary-General noted that diplomatic efforts on the JCPOA had resumed in Vienna,<sup>1066</sup> and the status of the negotiations indicated that the full restoration of the Plan and the resolution would require additional effort and patience. She reiterated, together with the Secretary-General, the appeal to the United States

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<sup>1063</sup> United Kingdom, Mexico, Ireland, France, Norway, Estonia and Germany.

<sup>1064</sup> For more information on pacific settlement of disputes, see part VI.

<sup>1065</sup> See [S/PV.8930](#). For the reports see [S/2021/992](#), [S/2021/995](#) and [S/2021/1019](#).

<sup>1066</sup> See [S/PV.8930](#).

to lift or waive its sanctions and to extend the waivers regarding the trade in oil with the Islamic Republic of Iran, while calling on the Islamic Republic of Iran to reverse the steps it had taken that were not consistent with its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. During the briefing, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations informed that since April, all JCPOA participants and the United States had engaged in intense negotiations in Vienna to bring the JCPOA back on track. He noted that while the negotiations were paused on 20 June as a new President and Government took office in the Islamic Republic of Iran, they resumed on 29 November in Vienna, with the aim of negotiating the return of the United States to the agreement and the resumption of JCPOA commitments by the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He noted with great regret and worry that the Islamic Republic of Iran had continued to expand its nuclear activities by accumulating more enriched uranium raising serious non-proliferation concerns. Also of great concern was the Islamic Republic of Iran's continued lack of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He welcomed the stated positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States and reiterated the call for all sides to be flexible and pragmatic, and step up their efforts to accelerate the process to put the JCPOA back on the full implementation track. The representative of Ireland, as the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), thanked all Council members for the unanimous approval of the twelfth report, and emphasized that they had to continue to play their part in demonstrating that resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), which endorsed the JCPOA, was working as it should.

During the deliberations, some Council members explicitly supported the resumption and ongoing diplomatic process in Vienna.<sup>1067</sup> In that context, several Council members also called on all parties to continue to engage in constructive negotiations, and refrain from all activities and rhetoric which could deepen mistrust or aggravate tensions.<sup>1068</sup> The representative of the United States noted that they were prepared to lift sanctions inconsistent with the JCPOA commitments. She said she was convinced that if Iran approached talks in Vienna with urgency and good faith an understanding on mutual return could quickly be reached and implemented. However, she stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran's continued nuclear escalations were

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<sup>1067</sup> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ireland, Norway and Niger.

<sup>1068</sup> Viet Nam, Norway, Tunisia and Kenya.

inconsistent with the stated goal of returning to mutual compliance with the JCPOA. In that regard, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran responded that the country was continuing remedial measures concurrently with the Vienna talks because the non-performance of obligations by other parties continued, and as soon as other parties implemented all their obligations in a full, effective and verifiable manner, the Islamic Republic of Iran would immediately reverse its measures in full. He emphasized that the current Vienna talks could succeed only by engaging in negotiations with genuine political will and in good faith, and by sticking to the full, effective and verifiable implementation by all sides of all commitments under the JCPOA, as the most pragmatic and easily achievable solution at the earliest time.

Concerning the implementation of paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), several speakers found that developing and testing of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles and related technologies by the Islamic Republic of Iran were concerning and inconsistent with the paragraph.<sup>1069</sup> The representative of France stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran could not be unaware that, under its obligations under resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), it was not to carry out any activities related to ballistic missiles designed to deliver nuclear weapons, including launches using ballistic-missile technology. In response, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran explained that launches of ballistic missiles and space-launch vehicles were completely outside of the purview of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and rejected attempts to make arbitrary and distorted interpretations of that paragraph. The representative of China underlined that parties had to effectively dispense with the obstacles including repeatedly hyping the missile launches by the Islamic Republic of Iran and ensure that negotiations did not radically veer off into the wrong direction. While reaffirming the importance of giving due consideration to the concerns expressed in that regard, including regarding regional security issues, the representative of Tunisia urged all parties to refrain from all activities and rhetoric that could deepen mistrust or aggravate tensions and to engage in good faith in dialogue and negotiations to resolve their differences. The representative of the Russian Federation believed that progress in terms of the United States returning to the full implementation of the deal would create the conditions for a positive reaction from the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the unfreezing of certain

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<sup>1069</sup> United Kingdom, Norway, Estonia and Germany.

obligations that had been suspended. He shared the view that the deal contained a carefully negotiated balance of interests and had to be implemented exactly in the form in which it had been approved by the Council in its resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), without any deletions or additions.

### Meetings: Non-proliferation

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8811</a> 30 June 2021	Letter dated 16 June 2021 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2231 (2015)</a> addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2021/578</a> )  Eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2231 (2015)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2021/582</a> )  Letter dated 24 June 2021 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2231 (2015)</a> addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2021/602</a> )		Islamic Republic of Iran; Germany	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8930</a> 14 December 2021	Letter dated 1 December 2021 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2231 (2015)</a> addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2021/992</a> )  Twelfth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2231 (2015)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2021/995</a> )		Islamic Republic of Iran; Germany	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees	

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
	Letter dated 7 December 2021 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2231 (2015)</a> addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2021/1019</a> )					

<sup>a</sup> The representative of Ireland briefed in her capacity as the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).