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Seventy-fourth year****The rule of law at the national and international levels****Letter dated 23 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of
the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

Pursuant to the Islamic Republic of Iran's letters dated 5 November 2018 (A/73/490-S/2018/988), 11 May 2018 (A/72/869-S/2018/453), 13 October 2017 (S/2017/862) and 28 August 2017 (S/2017/739) regarding the continuous violations of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) by the United States of America, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention:

The United States' unilateral nuclear as well as economic sanctions in defiance of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action have reached an unprecedented level during the past few months.

Its hostile and unlawful decision in April 2019¹ "to get Iran's oil exports to zero" as well as imposing other nuclear-related sanctions, including sanctions levied in May 2019 against Iran's metal industries,² blatantly violate international law, paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 2231(2015), paragraphs 21 (viii) and 26 of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and paragraphs 4.3 and 7.4 of annex II to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

While the Security Council has emphasized in resolution 2231 (2015) "that the JCPOA is conducive to promoting and facilitating the development of normal economic and trade contacts and cooperation with Iran", the United States has brazenly decided to impose extraterritorial sanctions on Iran's energy and trade partners.

The wrongful conduct of the United States has also been extended to peaceful nuclear cooperation, peaceful nuclear-related activities and the effective work of the procurement channel as envisaged in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and annex B of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015).

¹ See www.state.gov/advancing-the-u-s-maximum-pressure-campaign-on-iran/.

² See Executive Order 13871 of May 8, 2019 on "Imposing sanctions with respect to the iron, steel, aluminum, and copper sectors of Iran".



In November 2018, the United States imposed sanctions on peaceful nuclear cooperation with Iran, including designating Iran's Atomic Energy Organization and related entities and individuals (S/2018/1108). In March and May 2019,³ the United States introduced further restrictions and sanctions, inter alia, on peaceful nuclear activities and cooperation permitted under Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). Those illegal actions included unilateral sanctions on "any involvement in transferring enriched uranium out of Iran in exchange for natural uranium", and "the storage for Iran of heavy water". They also established a new sanction policy towards the modernization of the Arak heavy water research reactor.

While Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) encourages "Member States to cooperate ... with Iran in the framework of the JCPOA in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to engage in mutually determined civil nuclear cooperation", the latest decision of the United States regarding international nuclear cooperation has prevented the implementation of the resolution by impeding the sale, transfer or exchange of enriched uranium and heavy water produced by Iran. "The export of Iran's enriched uranium in excess of 300 kilograms in return for natural uranium" as a confidence-building measure stipulated in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and endorsed by resolution 2231 (2015) guarantees continuous enrichment of uranium inside Iran in the exercise of its rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The unimpeded implementation of the above-mentioned activities has been acknowledged by Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). The resolution has also endorsed those activities in its body and annex B, in accordance with which they were even exempted from any further authorization of the Security Council.

The recent United States sanctions and policies have prevented the implementation of relevant nuclear-related provisions of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) by Member States, including the Islamic Republic of Iran. The United States shall bear full responsibility for the consequences of those wrongful acts. The international community should uphold its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and consider and react proportionately to the unlawful conduct of the United States that has endangered international peace and security.

It is expected that the above-mentioned instances of the United States violations of resolution 2231 (2015) will be reflected in the next report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution.

It would be appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 86, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid **Takht Ravanchi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

³ See www.state.gov/advancing-the-maximum-pressure-campaign-by-restricting-iran-s-nuclear-activities/.