

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 16 December 2019 from the Security Council
Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith, as agreed among the representatives of the Security Council for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), my six-month report on the implementation of the resolution, which covers the period from 16 June to 16 December 2019.

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marc **Pecsteen de Buytswerve**
Security Council Facilitator for the
implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)



Eighth six-month report of the Facilitator on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)

I. Introduction

1. The note by the President of the Security Council of 16 January 2016 (S/2016/44) set forth practical arrangements and procedures for the Council for carrying out tasks related to the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), particularly with respect to the provisions specified in paragraphs 2 to 7 of annex B to that resolution.
2. In the note, it was established that the Security Council should select, on an annual basis, one member to serve as its Facilitator for the functions specified therein. On 2 January 2019, I was appointed as Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) for the period ending 31 December 2019 (see S/2019/2).
3. It was also established in the note that the Facilitator should brief the other members of the Security Council on its work and the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) every six months, in parallel with the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution.
4. The present report covers the period from 16 June to 16 December 2019.

II. Summary of the activities of the Council in the “2231 format”

5. On 24 June 2019, the representatives of the Security Council for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) met in the “2231 format” and discussed the findings and recommendations of the seventh report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2019/492). On 25 June 2019, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran sent a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/524) outlining the country’s views on the report.
6. On 26 June 2019 (see S/PV.8564), the Security Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on the seventh report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2019/492), by me as Facilitator on the work of the Council and the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2019/514) and by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, on behalf of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in her capacity as Coordinator of the Joint Commission established in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, on the procurement channel (S/2019/488).
7. On 26 July 2019, the representatives of the Security Council for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) met in the “2231 format” to discuss the letter dated 24 June 2019 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/520) on the implementation and maintenance of the restrictive measures against individuals and entities outlined in resolution 2231 (2015). On 4 November 2019, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/863), conveyed his views in response to the letter from the United States of America.
8. In follow-up to the “2231 format” meeting of 26 July, a Council member, in a communication dated 2 October 2019 addressed to me, sent a proposal regarding factual and technical updates to the individuals and entities on the list maintained

pursuant to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Two Council members expressed their concerns that the proposal went beyond the mandate of the “2231 format”. Subsequently, with reference to the note by the President of the Security Council of 16 January 2016 ([S/2016/44](#)), I circulated a note placing the proposed updates under a no-objection procedure. The aforementioned note was not approved due to an objection and concerns expressed by one Council member as well as concerns expressed by another.

9. On 13 December 2019, the representatives of the Security Council for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) met in the “2231 format” and discussed the findings and recommendations contained in the eighth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) ([S/2019/934](#)).

10. During the reporting period, a total of 50 notes were circulated within the “2231 format”. In addition, I sent 26 official communications to Member States and/or the Coordinator of the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission. I received a total of 50 communications from Member States and the Coordinator.

III. Monitoring the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

11. In line with paragraph 4 of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), the Acting Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) submitted in August and November 2019 respectively, its regular quarterly reports to the Agency’s Board of Governors and, in parallel, to the Security Council on its verification and monitoring activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the light of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) ([S/2019/737](#) and [S/2019/901](#)).

12. In addition, the Director General or Acting Director General submitted six separate reports, in July, September and November 2019 ([S/2019/559](#), [S/2019/560](#), [S/2019/738](#), [S/2019/899](#), [S/2019/900](#) and [S/2019/902](#)), to the Agency’s Board of Governors and, in parallel, to the Security Council. Those reports provide an update on developments in addition to the Agency’s regular quarterly reports as noted above and, in particular, refer to the following: the stockpile of enriched uranium; activities related to enrichment; centrifuge research and development activities; activities in relation to the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant; and the stock of heavy water.

13. In a letter dated 5 December 2019 ([A/74/575-S/2019/928](#)) addressed to me and the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted that the announcement by the United States of America that it would no longer waive certain sanctions related to the Fordow facility from 15 December “prevents the implementation of relevant nuclear-related provisions of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action”.

Ballistic missile launches

14. In identical letters dated 29 August 2019 ([S/2019/705](#)), the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations stated that, on 25 July and 9 August 2019, the Islamic Republic of Iran launched two ballistic missiles “in defiance of” paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). In response, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, in a letter dated 20 September 2019 ([S/2019/752](#)), stated that the related activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran were “not inconsistent with that paragraph” and “fall outside the purview or competence of the Security Council resolution and its annexes”.

15. In identical letters dated 19 November 2019 ([S/2019/895](#)), the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations stated that, from March 2019 to June

2019, the Islamic Republic of Iran had conducted “at least three surface-to-surface missile tests”, two of which “violate[d] annex B restrictions”. In response, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a letter dated 26 November 2019 (S/2019/907), stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran “strongly rejected” the aforementioned letter and that it had “neither launched any missile nor conducted any other action inconsistent with annex B to resolution 2231 (2015)”.

16. In a letter dated 21 November 2019 (S/2019/911), the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations noted that recent actions undertaken by the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding its ballistic missile programme were “inconsistent with paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015)”, including, inter alia, the test launch of a Shahab-3 medium-range ballistic missile in July 2019 and an attempted launch of a Safir satellite launch vehicle, according to media reporting on 29 August. In response, in a letter dated 4 December 2019 (S/2019/926), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran “has not conducted any activity inconsistent with paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015)” and “reject[ed] the claims” made in that letter.

17. In a letter dated 26 November 2019 (A/74/565-S/2019/909), the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations stated that none of the multilateral non-proliferation mechanisms prohibited the Islamic Republic of Iran from “develop[ing] missile and space programmes”. In the letter, the Chargé d’affaires also noted that “as yet no viable information to the contrary has ever been provided to the Security Council” and concluded that the Islamic Republic of Iran was “respecting in good faith” paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015).

Ballistic missiles, arms-related and other transfers

18. In the above-mentioned letter dated 19 November 2019 (S/2019/895), the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations also stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran had “transferred the Sadad-103 electro-optic surveillance system to the Iraqi military”, which “most probably constitutes a violation of Iran’s arms transfers restrictions”. In response, in a letter dated 26 November 2019 (S/2019/907), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran “strongly rejected” the aforementioned letter.

19. In identical letters dated 27 August 2019 (S/2019/688), the Permanent Representative of Israel stated that, in violation of resolution 2231 (2015), Iranian forces arrived in the Syrian Arab Republic “equipped with drones and explosives”. In a letter dated 6 September 2019 (S/2019/714), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran “reject[ed] all claims raised” in those letters.

20. In identical letters dated 7 September 2019 (S/2019/716), the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations claimed that “components necessary for manufacturing and converting precision-guided missiles” had been transferred from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Lebanon. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a letter dated 23 October 2019 (S/2019/836), “categorically reject[ed] all claims” made in the aforementioned letters from the Permanent Representative of Israel.

21. In the above-mentioned letter dated 21 November 2019 (S/2019/911), the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom also noted that the similarities between the new Borkan-3 medium-range ballistic missile reportedly launched by Houthi forces in August 2019 and the Qiam-1 missile launched by the Islamic Republic of Iran at targets in the Syrian Arab Republic in September 2018 suggest that the Islamic Republic of Iran “may be acting in breach

of relevant provisions in annex B to Council resolution 2231 (2015) barring the transfer of missile technology”.

22. In response to the above-mentioned letter (S/2019/911), in a letter dated 4 December 2019 (S/2019/926), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran “refutes, once again, the charges” that it had violated the resolution.

23. The above-mentioned letters, as addressed to the Secretary-General and/or the President of the Security Council, were circulated to Security Council members and/or circulated in the “2231 format” of the Council during the reporting period.

IV. Procurement channel approval, notifications and exemptions

24. During the reporting period, no new proposals for the supply of items, material, equipment, goods and technology set out in document INFCIRC/254/Rev.10/Part 2 were submitted to the Security Council.

25. Since Implementation Day, a total of 44 proposals to participate in or permit the activities set forth in paragraph 2 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015), have been submitted to the Security Council by five Member States from three different regional groups, including States that are not participants in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. To date, of the 44 proposals that have been processed, 30 have been approved, 5 not approved and 9 withdrawn. On average, the proposals were processed through the procurement channel in 50 calendar days. After the withdrawal of the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the procurement channel continues to function, and the Joint Commission continues to review proposals.

26. According to paragraph 2 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015), certain nuclear-related activities do not require approval but do require a notification to the Security Council or to both the Council and the Joint Commission. In this regard, since my most recent report, five notifications were submitted to the Security Council in relation to the transfer to the Islamic Republic of Iran of equipment and technology covered by annex B, section 1 of INFCIRC/254/Rev.13/Part 1, intended for light water reactors. No notifications were submitted to the Council related to the necessary modification of the two cascades at the Fordow facility for stable isotope production, and no notifications were submitted to the Council related to the modernization of the Arak reactor based on the agreed conceptual design.

27. On 15 November, I informed the Security Council that the updated versions of the lists regarding the items, materials, equipment, goods and technology, whose supply, sale or transfer to the Islamic Republic of Iran require approval by the Security Council had been published by IAEA (as INFCIRC/254/Rev.14/Part 1 and INFCIRC/254/Rev.11/Part 2), and further proposed that the Council update those lists, as mentioned in paragraph 2 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015). Subsequently, on 22 November, a Council member placed a hold on this proposal, pending further consultations with me and the Secretariat.

28. On 4 December 2019, the Coordinator of the Procurement Working Group transmitted to me the eighth six-month report of the Joint Commission (S/2019/925), in accordance with paragraph 6.10 of annex IV to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

V. Other approval and exemption requests

29. On 22 August, a proposal was submitted by a Council member to the Security Council to participate in and permit the activities set forth in paragraph 4 of annex B

to resolution 2231 (2015). During the no-objection procedure, three Council members requested that the proposal be denied. Subsequently, I sent an outcome note informing Council members that the proposal was deemed disapproved. I also informed the proposing Council member that the proposal had not been approved. The proposing Council member subsequently raised concerns about the outcome.

30. During the reporting period, no proposal was submitted by Member States to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 5 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015).

31. During the reporting period, no proposal was submitted by Member States to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 6 (b) of resolution 2231 (2015).

32. Exemptions to the assets freeze and travel ban provisions are contained in paragraphs 6 (d) and 6 (e), respectively, of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015). No exemption requests were received or granted by the Security Council in relation to the 23 individuals and 61 entities currently on the list maintained pursuant to resolution 2231 (2015).

VI. Transparency, outreach and guidance

33. Reflecting upon my introductory remarks as Facilitator during the first meeting in the “2231 format” in 2019 and emphasizing my role as an “honest broker”, I remain committed to facilitating and strengthening the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), as well as dialogue, transparency, trade and the use of the procurement channel.

34. Outreach activities by the Secretariat, as mandated by the note mentioned in paragraph 1 above (S/2016/44), will continue to foster awareness of resolution 2231 (2015). The website on resolution 2231 (2015), also managed and regularly updated by the Secretariat through the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, will also continue to play a significant role in providing relevant information.

35. In my role as Facilitator, I also held several bilateral consultations with Member States and their representatives, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, to discuss issues relevant to the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). As I continue to advocate for the Council’s collective responses to international peace and security issues, I encourage the international community to act in line with paragraph 2 of resolution 2231 (2015), which calls upon all Member States, regional and international organizations to take such actions as may be appropriate to support the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.