

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 7 March 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter addressed to the Secretary-General from the United States of America regarding Iran's defiance of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jonathan R. Cohen
Acting Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 7 March 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The United States wishes to bring to the attention of the Security Council several actions on the part of Iran in defiance of paragraph 3 of Annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

Paragraph 3 of Annex B of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) reads in part “Iran is called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology”.

In recent months, Iran has conducted several activities that defy this provision. On 1 December 2018, Iran launched a Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) Category 1 medium range ballistic missile (MRBM). On 15 January 2019 and 5 February 2019, Iran attempted to place satellites into orbit using its Simorgh and Safir space launch vehicles, respectively.

The phrase “ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons” in paragraph 3 of Annex B of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) includes Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) Category I systems. MTCR Category I systems include those designed to be capable of delivering at least a 500 kilogram payload to a range of at least 300 kilometres, which means they are inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

The MRBM tested by Iran on 1 December was an MTCR Category I system and designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. In addition, space launch vehicles use technologies that are virtually identical and interchangeable with those used in MTCR Category I ballistic missiles. Iran’s 15 January and 5 February satellite launches constitute activities using technologies related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. Iran is called upon not to undertake such launches in paragraph 3 of Annex B of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

Iran has carried out these three launches in defiance of the expressed will of the Security Council, and such provocations continue to destabilize the entire Middle East region. Iran’s further development of missile technology risks a regional arms race and heightens the possibility that a miscalculation could spark a confrontation that is in no one’s interest. When Iran chooses to defy the Security Council repeatedly without consequence, it undermines the fundamental credibility of the Council’s decisions.

In addition, the Security Council must continue to insist on full implementation of the binding measures in resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) that restrict outside support to Iran’s ballistic missile programme.

All United Nations Member States have an obligation under that resolution not to supply, sell or transfer to Iran ballistic missile-related items, materials, equipment, goods and technology absent advance, case-by-case approval from the Security Council. They also may not provide Iran with any technology, technical assistance or training, financial assistance, investment, brokering or other services related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology, or the supply, sale, manufacture or use of such items, materials, equipment, goods and technology absent advance Security Council approval.

The dangers presented by missile proliferation in the Middle East call for a broad and concerted international effort to ensure that Iran no longer poses a threat to

regional peace and security. The prospect of rapid escalation in the region is real, and increasingly likely, if we fail to restore deterrence. We condemn Iran's destabilizing activities, and call upon Iran to cease immediately all activities related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. We also call upon all Security Council members to shoulder their responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, and join us in imposing real consequences on Iran for its flagrant defiance of the Council's demands and bring back tougher international restrictions to deter Iran's missile programme.

(Signed) Jonathan R. **Cohen**
Acting Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations
