

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 15 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia in connection with the fifth anniversary of the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for the settlement of the situation with respect to the Iranian nuclear programme (see annex).

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

*(Signed)* V. Nebenzia



**Annex to the letter dated 15 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

**Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia in connection with the fifth anniversary of the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for the settlement of the situation with respect to the Iranian nuclear programme**

14 July 2020

Five years ago, on 14 July 2015, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain, Germany, Iran, China, Russia, France and the United States of America, with the participation of the European Union, concluded settlement agreements for the Iranian nuclear programme that were unique in their scope and significance.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), imbued with the common political will of the countries that participated in its development and underpinned by Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), was a major achievement of multilateral diplomacy. It demonstrated that the advantages and effectiveness of negotiated solutions had prevailed over approaches based on threats, pressure and brute force.

The success of JCPOA was made possible by the fact that the parties involved in the negotiations were able to find common ground, hear and understand each other's concerns and, most importantly, find the keys to resolving one of the most complex and long-standing conflicts in the field of nuclear non-proliferation on the basis of international law and universally recognized instruments.

In a relatively short period of time, JCPOA provided comprehensive answers to the questions that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had at that time regarding the Iranian nuclear programme while ensuring an unprecedented level of transparency.

And today no State undergoes more verification from IAEA than Iran.

Despite the spin occasionally heard in the West, JCPOA never aimed to call into question or restrict the legitimate rights of Tehran to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as enshrined in article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. On the contrary, the agreements paved the way to expand mutually beneficial cooperation with Iran in the nuclear energy sector and in other economic, trade, scientific and technical areas.

The main fact that JCPOA opponents and critics prefer to keep silent about is that the agreements were built on an equitable basis and founded on a carefully calibrated balance of interests and reciprocal commitments. There were no losers among the JCPOA participants. The entire world won as a result of its conclusion.

Today, five years later, it must be said that JCPOA implementation constantly requires enormous tenacity and perseverance from its participants. The root cause of the many difficulties and challenges faced in implementing the agreements is the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from its obligations and its numerous gross violations of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

Washington's "maximum pressure" policy, which it decided to apply in order to impose sanctions not only on Iran, but also on JCPOA, is short-sighted and mistaken. This policy discredits the United States of America, setting it in opposition to the rest of the world, which strongly advocates for the strict implementation of Security

Council decisions and for consistent and comprehensive JCPOA implementation in accordance with the originally agreed goals and parameters. The State, one of the main sponsors of the landmark agreement and of the aforementioned Security Council resolution, has been refusing to implement these instruments for more than two years and has been persistently preventing others from doing so, thereby undermining respect for itself as a responsible actor in international relations that is capable concluding such agreements.

The current Administration in Washington should understand that the United States of America has and will continue to have obligations towards the rest of the world, which it must fulfil. Those are the principles of coexistence in a world based on universally recognized rules of international law, not rules that someone else tries to write and rewrite for themselves, to the detriment of others.

Failures and challenges in JCPOA implementation do not diminish its achievements. The settlement formula laid down therein has not been overtaken by events. As was case five years ago, when it comes to implementing the decisions agreed upon by the Security Council and not to the settling of scores, the world has no more reliable or effective option. The opportunity remains in place for JCPOA to return to a stable footing. Russia intends to spare no effort to that end and encourages its partners to work together meaningfully to find ways to de-escalate the situation and protect JCPOA from being assailed by the United States of America.

The JCPOA detractors have nothing to offer to replace it. Their agenda is focused solely on destruction. For the sake of their own ambitions and out of a false sense of exceptionalism, they are prepared to act recklessly, break agreements, escalate military and political tensions in the Middle East, provoke a crisis in the Security Council and then, surreptitiously, try to achieve their own election goals. That is the road to nowhere. JCPOA was designed to prevent the implementation of military scenarios and to avert the threat of war that was looming over the Persian Gulf.

There is still no substitute for it today.

We call on all JCPOA partners and other members of the United Nations to show political will and defend it. United Nations Member States have no margin for error today.

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