



Security Council

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Letter dated 20 August 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We are writing to you in our capacity as elected members of the United Nations Security Council.

We refer to the letter addressed to you from the Secretary of State of the United States, dated 20 August 2020.

We wish to reiterate that Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) makes it very clear that the notification envisaged in paragraph 11 should be received from a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) “participant State of an issue that the JCPOA participant State believes constitutes significant non-performance of commitments under the JCPOA”.

As resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and the JCPOA are inextricably linked and are mutually contingent, any party that, out of its own volition, withdraws from the JCPOA cannot be regarded as a JCPOA participant State and thus would not be able to invoke the provisions of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) as a “participant State”.

The United States, of its own volition, unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA on 8 May 2018, reinstating unilateral sanctions against Iran, which is in violation of the JCPOA and resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Having confirmed its withdrawal from the JCPOA and by not participating in any of the JCPOA structures or subsequent activities, the United States ceased to be a JCPOA participant and is, therefore, ineligible to submit a notification to the Security Council under the terms of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

We are of the view that the JCPOA is one of the most important diplomatic achievements in the area of nuclear non-proliferation since the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We believe it is an exemplar of collective action to consolidate peace through cooperation and collaboration on the basis of a binding agreement and, therefore, its preservation and implementation should be foremost. We are also of the view that the JCPOA has contributed significantly to the reduction of tensions over Iran’s nuclear programme and remains vital in promoting peace, stability and the normalization of relations.

It is thus crucial that there be full implementation of the JCPOA by all parties, in order to re-establish trust in the agreement and avoid any action that would further undermine the integrity of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and the JCPOA.



We request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdou **Abarry**
Permanent Representative of the Niger

(Signed) Inga Rhonda **King**
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

(Signed) Jerry **Matjila**
Permanent Representative of South Africa

(Signed) Kais **Kabtani**
Permanent Representative of Tunisia
