

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 21 August 2020 from the Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia regarding illegal actions of the United States of America in the Security Council to reinstate repealed sanctions on Iran (see annex).

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

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**



Annex to the letter dated 21 August 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia on illegal actions taken by the United States of America in the Security Council to reinstate repealed sanctions on Iran

The United States of America is continuing its dangerous manoeuvring in the Security Council in the hope of bringing its schemes against Iran to fruition. Having failed to win support for its draft resolution aimed at extending indefinitely an arms embargo against Iran, which was resolutely rebuffed by the Security Council, the United States has been badgering senior United Nations officials and the President of the Security Council to recognize the alleged right of the United States to use the mechanisms provided under Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to exert pressure on Iran.

The United States is doing this despite having officially withdrawn from the Plan and despite having blatantly and shamelessly violated its own commitments under the Security Council decisions stemming from this agreement for over two years. The United States has been unrelenting in its criticism of the nuclear deal and has done everything to undermine Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Most recently, having apparently forgotten its obligations entirely, it suddenly started talking about its supposed rights.

The notification given by the United States, alleging that it has initiated the reimposition of the sanctions provided for under Security Council resolutions on Iran and repealed following the conclusion of the Plan in 2015, cannot produce the desired effects. Reality has doomed such machinations to failure: the United States forfeited its rights and the ability to use the mechanisms provided for under the Plan and Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) when it chose to walk away from the Plan.

The notification issued by the United States demonstrates Washington's twisted interpretation of this resolution and its failure to comply with the requirements of either the resolution or of the Plan, which forms an integral part of the resolution. The United States is trying to prove that it has the right to fulfil only those provisions of the resolution that it finds convenient, since they serve to advance its anti-Iran agenda. This is not the case, however. Furthermore, the United States could not include in its notification a description of the good faith efforts it had made to exhaust the dispute resolution process specified in the Plan, because it did not make any such efforts, whereas such efforts are obligatory. Therefore, the Security Council has no grounds for accepting the notification made by the United States for consideration, let alone for taking any action based on it. Doing so would contravene Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). This appears to be precisely what Washington is trying to accomplish, as it seeks to lead the other members of the Security Council into a quagmire ungoverned by international law.

We firmly believe that the notification issued by the United States is legally null and void and cannot be used to initiate the mechanism for reimposing old resolutions on Iran. The United States cannot dig in its heels and expect the Security Council to support its misguided position. One cannot renege on one's commitments under an agreement and still enjoy the rights that it confers.

Russia has circulated a detailed legal argument in this regard to the Security Council.

We are convinced that the escalation of tensions around the Iranian issue is misguided and self-defeating. We urge the United States to opt for sensible solutions and not to deprive itself of the opportunity to reach agreement with Iran.
