



Security Council

Seventieth year

7583rd meeting

Tuesday, 15 December 2015, 3 p.m.

New York

Provisional

President: Ms. Power (United States of America)

Members:

Angola	Mr. Gimolieca
Chad	Mr. Gombo
Chile	Ms. Sapag Muñoz de la Peña
China	Mr. Wang Min
France	Mr. Bertoux
Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
Lithuania	Mr. Špokauskas
Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
Nigeria	Mr. Adamu
Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>).

15-42800 (E)



Accessible document

Please recycle



The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Permanent Representative of Spain, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

I now give the floor to Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi.

Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to present the report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) in accordance with paragraph 18 (h) of the same resolution. The present report covers the period from 15 September to 14 December, during which time the Committee held an informal meeting on 24 November and conducted additional work using the no-objection procedure envisioned by paragraph 15 of the guidelines for the conduct of its work.

I am pleased to note that on 18 October, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) came into effect, 90 days after the endorsement of the JCPOA by the Security Council through resolution 2231 (2015). That day is known as “adoption day”. While the JCPOA participants began at that time to prepare all the measures necessary to implement the nuclear agreement, all provisions set forth in resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010) remain in force until implementation day, when the Security Council sanctions measures will be lifted as relevant Security Council resolutions are terminated. The Committee further notes that paragraph 21 of resolution 2231 (2015) provides for exemptions to the current measures with regard to certain activities related to the Fordow and Arak facilities, and the export of Iran’s enriched uranium in excess of 300 kilograms in return for natural uranium.

During the reporting period, the Committee considered its 2015 annual report on 9 December through its no-objection procedure. The report has been submitted to the President of the Security Council and will be issued as document S/2015/947. The annual report provides an overview of the range of activities pursued by the Committee in 2015, in accordance with its mandate. I would like to highlight that the Committee has recently revised its guidelines to include the additional mandated tasks in accordance with paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 of resolution 2231 (2015).

During the period under review, the Committee received two reports from Member States alleging violations of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010) and paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007), respectively. At the informal consultations held on 24 November, the Committee instructed the Panel of Experts to investigate the two reported incidents and report back to the Committee on the Panel’s findings and conclusions. On 9 December, the Panel submitted to the Committee its investigation report on an incident reported by a Member State on 27 July. The Panel concluded that the attempted procurement of grade 5 titanium alloy bars constitutes a violation by Iran pursuant to provisions of Security Council resolution 1737 (2006) and subsequent resolutions. However, the Panel could not reach a definitive conclusion on this being a wilful violation by Iran’s authorities.

The Panel also submitted to the Committee on 11 December an inspection report concerning the alleged test launch of an Emad ballistic missile by Iran on 10 October, which was reported to the Committee by a Member State on 21 October on behalf of three other Member States. The Panel concluded that the Emad launch was a violation by Iran of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010).

The Committee received four notifications — three from a Member State, of which one was submitted in accordance with paragraph 22 of resolution 2231 (2015) — informing it of the delivery of natural uranium to Iran; two in accordance with paragraph 21 of resolution 2231 (2015), informing it of the transfer of low-enriched uranium from Iran; and one from a Member State informing of its successful disposal, in cooperation with another State, of a cargo pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 1929 (2010).

With regard to a request from a specialized United Nations agency seeking to provide technical assistance

to Iran, the Committee continues to consider its response.

During the reporting period, the Panel submitted its mid-term report to the Committee on 6 November, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2224 (2015). Following a discussion by the Committee of the report on 24 November, it was submitted to the Security Council on 3 December.

The Panel continues to carry out its activities in accordance with its mandate set forth in paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010). It is currently completing one more investigation report on an earlier incident reported by a Member State concerning paragraph 13 of resolution 1929 (2010). The Panel is planning to conduct an investigation into an incident reported by a Member State to the Committee on 24 November, which concerns paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007). The Committee looks forward to the Panel's findings and conclusions in that regard.

The President: I thank the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) for his detailed briefing.

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Gimolieca (Angola): We thank Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi for his presentation of the 90-day report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). We commend his excellent work as Chair of the Committee.

We are pleased that on 18 October — adoption day of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — the participants began the necessary arrangements, including legal and administrative provisions for the implementation of their commitments under the JCPOA. This is a positive step that we hope will lead to a long-lasting solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

It is crucial that during the transitional period, the Government of Iran seek to implement all specific actions stipulated in resolution 2231 (2015), by which the Security Council endorsed the JCPOA, so as to expedite the easing of the sanctions against Iran by reaching implementation day, putting an end to all sanctions imposed on Iran. In that regard, we strongly encourage the Government of Iran to remain fully committed to the measures imposed by relevant Security Council resolutions until implementation day, and avoid such

actions as the alleged launch of Emad ballistic missiles reported to the Committee on 21 October.

On the other hand, we welcome the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), ending the 12-year investigation into allegations that Iran was developing a nuclear weapons programme, thereby closing the issue of a possible military dimension of the Iran nuclear programme, which is a key step towards the lifting of international sanctions.

In conclusion, we would like to express our recognition of Iran's right to pursue a nuclear programme exclusively for peaceful purposes, and encourage the Government to continue its cooperation with the IAEA in implementing the related measures stipulated in the JCPOA and in accordance with resolution 2231 (2015).

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his briefing. I appreciate his efforts and those of his team to advance the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). China welcomes the on-schedule entry into force of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as an important milestone in the comprehensive, enduring and appropriate settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue. The fact that the P5+1 and Iran have acted in accordance with the time frame specified in the JCPOA is a practical demonstration of their political support for the agreement.

As the JCPOA implementation day fast approaches, the Council's work on the Iranian nuclear issue will enter a new phase. In that context, China wishes to make a few comments.

First, all concerned parties should prepare well for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). In accordance with the resolution's requirements and on the basis of the agreements reached among the parties, the Council should thoroughly prepare its mechanisms, procedures and tasks so as to exercise its authority and ensure the smooth implementation of the resolution.

Secondly, all sides should accurately interpret the contents of the resolution with a view to fostering positive synergy towards the comprehensive, enduring and appropriate settlement of the Iranian nuclear question. On implementation day, the Council's sanctions will be lifted and replaced by restrictive measures. The Council should work in a balanced and objective manner so as to ensure the comprehensive implementation of its own resolutions, properly address sensitive issues and lend

support to and coordinate with the implementation of the JCPOA, which is the paramount task.

Thirdly, the various parties need to maintain their political will, effectively implement their commitments and promote the steady implementation of the JCPOA. The Iranian nuclear question is extremely complex and the implementation of the JCPOA has many unprecedented elements. As the implementation process unfolds, various problems, difficulties and even challenges are expected to emerge. China hopes that all concerned parties will seek to meet each other half way, uphold the principles of synchronization and reciprocity, accommodate each other's concerns and ensure fairness and balance.

Fourthly, China has noted the final assessment report of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear programme. We appreciate the constructive cooperation between the IAEA and Iran towards implementing the road map. The related resolution adopted today by the IAEA Board of Governors is conducive to ensuring the smooth start of the implementation of the JCPOA, for which China wishes to place its appreciation on record.

China has actively mediated the negotiation process on the Iranian nuclear question, while playing a constructive role in such key issues as the modification of the Arak heavy-water reactor. Going forward, China will engage closely with all the parties and contribute to promoting the smooth implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Mr. Bertoux (France) (*spoke in French*): I too would like to thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his presentation of the quarterly report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), and his entire team for the excellent work they have been doing for nearly a year.

The Vienna agreement of 14 July and the Council's adoption of resolution 2231 (2015) marked a historic step on the road to establishing confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. For 12 years, the international community worried about Iran's alarming expansion of its nuclear programme. Today, after long and difficult negotiations, a path has opened towards a lasting solution to the issue. The July agreement between Iran and the E3+3 meets the traditional and essential requirements for non-proliferation that we outlined during the

negotiations. In order to ensure Iran's compliance with its commitments, we have established a robust and detailed verification regime. The Vienna agreement is now our collective road map. We will monitor it to ensure that the timetable and measures defined in the agreement and in resolution 2231 (2015) are rigorously and comprehensively implemented.

Positive progress has been made since July. On 18 October, following the completion of the national investigation process, the Vienna agreement went into effect, and just today the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency took important decisions aimed at re-establishing the relationship between the Agency and Iran on new foundations.

Having endorsed the Vienna agreement through the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), the Council must now shoulder the responsibility of implementing it. I would like to recall in that regard that both the agreement and the resolution establish that until the start of implementation, all existing Security Council measures, including sanctions, remain in full effect. In that context, we were disturbed to learn the conclusions of the latest incident report from the Panel of Experts concerning the ballistic missile launched by Iran on 10 October. According to the report, the Panel's rigorous independent inquiry concluded quite unambiguously that the missile launch constituted a violation of resolution 1929 (2010). That violation must receive an appropriate response from the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). The Panel of Experts also mentions a possible ballistic missile launch on 21 November. That information should receive our full attention, and if it is confirmed we should also respond to it.

In a second report concerning an attempt to transfer titanium bars under embargo, the conclusions in the Panel of Experts are no more reassuring. If the transfer had been successful, it would also have constituted a violation of resolution 1737 (2006). Such violations, coming so soon after the July agreement, do not augur well. They demonstrate just how vigilant we must continue to be.

The Vienna agreement on the Iranian nuclear programme will be a victory for international diplomacy only to the extent that it is fully and rigorously applied. In that regard, we will remain engaged in its implementation in good faith but in a spirit of watchfulness that can ensure the credibility

of the agreement and that the solution to the Iranian nuclear issue will be a lasting one.

Mr. Safronkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation is grateful to Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi, Permanent Representative of Spain, for his briefing on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) during the latest reporting period.

Today, in a special session, the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopted a resolution on Iran, closing the issue related to Iran's alleged military nuclear research, superseding all previous resolutions on Iran, and establishing a clear path towards the Board's full closure of its dossier on Iran.

Iran and the IAEA have fully complied with and thoroughly gone over the road map agreed on in mid-July and designed to clarify issues pertaining to Iran. The most important conclusion of that process was that no signs of undeclared nuclear material or activities were found in Iran. That is particularly important in assessing Iran's compliance with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations, as one of the principal aims of the system of safeguards is to ensure control over nuclear material. We believe that a new chapter has begun in the relationship between the Agency and Iran. In the future, cooperation between Iran and the IAEA will be based on the Agency's traditional frameworks — a comprehensive safeguards agreement and its additional protocol, along with voluntary commitments on the part of Iran to promoting transparency within the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The tools at the Agency's disposal will enable it to verify the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

The Russian Federation is pleased that the agreement reached on a final settlement of the nuclear programme situation is based on a formula proposed by Russia's President, which involves the recognition of Iran's right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including the right to enrich uranium, and the simultaneous lifting of all sanctions after all outstanding issues are closed and the arrangements for Tehran's nuclear programme are under strict international control. The solutions arrived at during the negotiations are clear testimony to the fact that any challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime can and must be removed through diplomacy and on the basis of international law. The same can

be said of the joint collective work regarding many regional crises.

On the whole, the preparations for launching the practical implementation of the Plan of Action are going pretty well. In accordance with the report of the Director General of the IAEA of 18 November (see A/70/219), as well as our contacts in the Agency, the Iranians are quite quickly bringing their nuclear programme into compliance with the requirements of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The IAEA is ready to take action at any time to start verifying Iran's compliance with its obligations under the Plan. The Agency and Iran have already coordinated their approach to applying safeguards in all areas of the nuclear programme, and the IAEA is also carefully monitoring the Iranians' efforts to bring the programme into compliance.

In general, we believe that it is important to take advantage of the opportunities that have emerged since the adoption of the Plan of Action to engage Iran in full-on economic cooperation, as well as in cooperation aimed at addressing regional problems in the Middle East. For its part, the Russian Federation will provide practical cooperation in complying with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would first like to thank the Permanent Representative of Spain for his excellent presentation and for his role in leading the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). I would also like to thank the Panel of Experts for their work in preparing the latest report.

We are now nearing the start of the implementation of the Iran nuclear agreement under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action signed in July by the Iran and the P5+1, as well as the issuance of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirming Iran's fulfilment of its obligations. We stress the importance of the nuclear agreement and the full implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), which provide essential guarantees for the Iranian nuclear programme. We hope that the launch of the implementation of the Plan of Action will help to strengthen international efforts aimed at addressing the challenges threatening the security of the Middle East, promoting the principles of good-neighbourliness and strengthening peace and security, while at the same time reinforcing the nuclear non-proliferation regime in the Middle East, which of course will also have an impact on international peace and security.

In regard to the report on the work of the 1737 Committee, Jordan supports the Committee's efforts to prepare for the effective implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We call on the Committee to continue implementing its mandate and the relevant Security Council resolutions until the Council receives the IAEA report confirming that Iran has effectively undertaken measures pertaining to its nuclear programme, pursuant to resolution 2231 (2015). The world will thereby be reassured of the peaceful character of its nuclear programme.

By the same token, Jordan is concerned about the contents of the 11 December report of the Panel of Experts, especially in regard to violations mentioned therein and Iran's launch on 11 October of a ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear weapon. We call on the Committee to look into the matter.

In conclusion, we welcome the role played by the Committee and its request for various bodies of the United Nations system to provide technical assistance to assist Iran in implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Van Bohemen (New Zealand): We thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi of Spain for his briefing in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). New Zealand is a strong supporter of the mandate of the Committee. We commend the Panel of Experts on its good work and encourage both the Committee and the Panel to continue their efforts.

Like others here today, we are pleased to note that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was adopted on 18 October, 90 days after endorsement of the Plan by the Council. Adoption was indeed an important milestone in the process of ensuring that the international community can have full confidence that Iran's nuclear programme will be used for exclusively peaceful purposes. We are pleased to note that JCPOA participants, particularly Iran, are taking the necessary first steps towards the full implementation of the nuclear agreement. United Nations Member have also begun the process of revising their domestic settings to reflect the provisions of the agreement. This includes drafting changes to allow for the removal of sanctions and for snap-back arrangements, should these be required.

The process is by no means straightforward, and we are acutely aware of the challenges faced by small States in particular in implementing complex sanctions

regimes. Member States will continue to require guidance to clarify and implement obligations under resolution 2231 (2015). In order for the agreement to be fully and effectively implemented, it is important that all Member States and private sector entities be ready to act in advance of implementation day. The Council has an important role to play in assisting them to ensure that they are indeed ready.

In the intervening period, we remind Member States that all existing sanctions against Iran remain in force. We note with concern the Panel's recent finding of a violation of paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007), although we note that it did not reach a conclusion as to whether this represented a wilful violation on Iran's part. Additionally, the Panel has concluded its investigation into Iran's test launch of a ballistic missile on 10 October. New Zealand notes with concern the Panel's conclusion that the launch of the Emad missile was a violation of resolution 1929 (2010). Such actions risk undermining confidence in and support for the agreement and jeopardize its full and effective implementation.

We urge all parties, in particular Iran, to approach JCPOA implementation with the same positive intent and good faith that enabled the agreement to be concluded. We further note that even after implementation day, Iran will remain subject to paragraph 3 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015), which calls upon Iran not to undertake any ballistic missile launches.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): Let me join others in thanking the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and its Chair, as well as the Panel of Experts, for their continued hard work in supporting the Council's resolutions on Iran.

I would like to begin by echoing Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi's words and welcoming the passing of adoption day on 18 October. That was a major milestone on the road to the successful implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Our focus now must be on the swift and full implementation of the JCPOA. We look to Iran to complete promptly the agreed measures, giving the international community confidence that its nuclear programme is and will remain exclusively peaceful. We also join others in noting the important decisions taken today by the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors.

As the Committee's report reminds us, however, during the current transitional period the bulk of

sanctions will remain in place and will continue to be enforced in full. These include all United Nations sanctions and all obligations on Member States arising from Council resolutions on the issue. The phased lifting of sanctions should act as an incentive for Iran to meet all obligations under the comprehensive agreement.

The report is also a reminder that Member States must continue to raise any suspected violation of Council provisions, in accordance with the requirements set out in resolution 2231 (2015). There have been three issues of note since we last met to discuss this (see S/PV.7522): first, the notification from Member States informing the Committee of the delivery of natural uranium to Iran; secondly, the two notifications regarding the transfer of low-enriched uranium from Iran, in accordance with resolution 2231 (2015); and finally, the notification regarding the successful disposal of cargo, pursuant to resolution 1929 (2010).

Turning to the work of the Committee, I am grateful for the continued crucial role it plays in supporting the enforcement of the Council's relevant restrictive measures on Iran. We note with great concern the medium-range ballistic missile Iran launched on 10 October, which was subsequently referred to the Committee for investigation. This was a Missile Technology Control Regime Category I missile, capable of delivering a nuclear weapon. As such, it was clearly prohibited by operative paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010), which remains in force. We further note that the Panel of Experts' own independent investigation into the incident, completed in the past week, has likewise concluded that the launch was a violation of Council sanctions. The United Kingdom supports immediate Committee action to address those findings. We are also concerned by reports of a further ballistic missile launch by Iran. If it is confirmed, we will support a similar appropriate reaction.

In other areas, we note the report of the Panel on the attempted procurement of grade 5 titanium alloy bars. As the report states, this was a violation by Iran of its commitments under Security Council resolutions. Although the Panel was not able to determine whether this was a wilful violation, the incident highlights the importance of Iran tackling illicit procurement routes. This is particularly crucial as we move towards the implementation of the JCPOA, wherein the attempted procurement of sensitive goods outside official routes could constitute a breach. We welcome the Member States' report on the incidents that led to the Panel's

investigations and encourage others to benefit from the Panel's assistance in that regard.

Let me close by underscoring my gratitude for the assistance provided by the Committee and the Panel of Experts to Member States and international organizations and for their participation in international meetings and conferences. Such efforts are vital to a lasting peaceful solution to the Iran nuclear issue. That is a goal the United Kingdom shares. The comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran is in all our interests. For the international community, it is the best way of ensuring that Iran does not develop a nuclear weapons capability. For Iran, it would reset relationships with the international community and help open up a country that has been closed far too long. The United Kingdom will continue to make every effort to implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action successfully. We look to all parties involved to do the same.

Ms. Sapag Muñoz de la Peña (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi and his team for presenting the quarterly report on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and for their effective conduct of its work.

Chile welcomes the start of the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on 18 October, known as "adoption day". On 15 October, Iran complied with the agreed measures with the International Atomic Energy Agency, as reported by that body. We hope that the measures set forth in resolution 2231 (2015) can be verified promptly by the International Atomic Energy Agency on what has come to be known as "implementation day".

We note with concern the information provided by the Panel of Experts on the possible violation of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010). It is important that we act responsibly and in accordance with the resolutions of the Council, while taking into account the political context. By the same token, it is important to underscore the responsibilities incumbent upon all Members of the Organization in complying with the sanctions regime.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The implementation of its three pillars — disarmament, non-proliferation and the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy — must be balanced. Chile recognizes the right of the Islamic

Republic of Iran to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and values the efforts on the part of Iran and the international community to implement the commitments they have undertaken.

In this discussion, we must not forget the need to move forward as well on the nuclear disarmament obligations set out in article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The establishment of internationally recognized and verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zones is a political and legal commitment. We therefore reiterate the importance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and that the international community must contribute to its establishment.

Mr. Adamu (Nigeria): I also thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his briefing. Nigeria welcomes the entry into force of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on 18 October, which is a major step in the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). In our view, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action provides a clear road map for the implementation of the agreement by Iran and the P5+1 with regard to the Iranian nuclear programme. It is our hope that that will lead to a resolution of all outstanding issues. We would like to reiterate our support for the agreement and urge the parties to implement it in a transparent manner and in good faith.

We are encouraged by reports coming out of Vienna today that indicate that the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has adopted a final resolution, completing the Agency's probe of Iran's nuclear programme. That is another crucial step in the implementation of the Iranian nuclear agreement. We look forward to implementation day, at which time the Security Council sanctions imposed on Iran will be lifted. We commend the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) for his effective leadership and assure him of our continued support.

Mr. Ibrahim (Malaysia): I join other Council members in thanking Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi of Spain, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), for his briefing to the Council. I wish to also take this opportunity to commend and express my delegation's appreciation to the Chair and his team for their able stewardship of the Committee.

Against the background of the historic breakthrough and the progress on resolving questions related to Iran's

nuclear programme, the work of the Committee and its Panel of Experts remains of interest to the Council. Looking ahead, we are of the view that the work of the Panel of Experts should progressively include more activities on outreach to all United Nations States Members, interested partners and stakeholders so as to explain and clarify provisions of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Alongside other Council members, we understand that, since the conclusion of the JCPOA and the subsequent adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), in July, the Committee and its mandate remain in place until the day known as implementation day, as stipulated in the JCPOA.

In that connection, Malaysia notes the findings and conclusions by the Panel of Experts on alleged violations of the sanctions regime pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), as outlined in the Chair's report. We would urge caution and prudence when deliberating on that issue. We reaffirm our commitment to work constructively with other Council members, while being fully mindful of the need to preserve the Council's unity on the matter. At the same time, Malaysia takes this opportunity to reaffirm the call on all the parties concerned to continue engaging and working constructively with the Committee, including on resolving outstanding issues and questions. In our view, positive cooperation and sustained engagement in that regard would build further confidence and pave the way for a smooth transition to the processes envisioned under the JCPOA.

The Chair's previous briefing (see S/PV.7522), in September, came at a time when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was reviewing the structural framework in place to ensure that Iran would arrive at the completion of the initial steps outlined in resolution 2231 (2015). In that regard, we welcome the IAEA's preliminary report on Iran's implementation of the road map. With regard to implementation, we welcome, and are encouraged by, the cooperation and positive steps taken by Iran to date, including, among others, on the removal and storage of enrichment centrifuges. In addition, we welcome the agreement reached on the redesign and reconstruction of the Arak nuclear reactor, announced on 22 November.

While noting that some challenges remain in clarifying certain issues and questions related to Iran's nuclear programme, Malaysia believes that a positive outcome on the full and timely implementation of the road map is still achievable, provided that all parties engage earnestly and in good faith. On that note, we

would reaffirm the sovereign right of all countries, particularly those from the developing world, to pursue and develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes with the appropriate safeguards. As such, we reiterate the call upon those States with the relevant capabilities, skills and expertise to support such aspirations, in line with the principles enshrined under article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In conclusion, Malaysia wishes to reaffirm its belief in the importance of matching the progress on nuclear non-proliferation with similar progress on the nuclear disarmament side. Stalled efforts aimed at achieving that goal in recent years remains a cause for concern, particularly for non-nuclear weapons States. We urge renewed commitment and action, particularly on the part of the nuclear weapons States, aimed at achieving the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Gombo (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), for his quarterly briefing on the Committee's activities from 15 September to 14 December.

With respect to the Iranian nuclear issue, we welcome the entry into force, on 18 October, of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, 90 days after the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015). We reiterate that the Plan was a diplomatic and historic victory. Accordingly, we call upon all the parties concerned to conscientiously implement it and to overcome all possible future obstacles through dialogue.

Moreover, beyond the Iranian nuclear issue, and mindful of the ongoing conflicts and tensions in the Middle East, the Security Council should accord particular attention to the development of weapons of mass destruction on the part of certain States in the region and encourage the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

With regard to the activities of the 1737 Committee, we commend it on its dynamic work and encourage it to continue its efforts in the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. We take note of its contribution and activities during 2015, its review of the Committee's guidelines, in line with resolution 2231 (2015), and the mid-term report of the Panel of Experts, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 3 December.

In conclusion, we reiterate our full appreciation to the Chair of the 1737 Committee and all the experts for their commitment and dedication to the implementation of their mandate.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We want to thank Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi for his presentation of the quarterly report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). Similarly, we would like to express to him and his team our gratitude for the efforts undertaken to promote and fulfil the Committee's programme of work.

The consideration by the Security Council of the Iranian nuclear issue is at a critical transitional phase. The Security Council's unanimous support for the agreement adopted in resolution 2231 (2015) has helped to lay the groundwork for the successful implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and the promotion and maintenance of the international non-proliferation regime. The achievement of that important diplomatic agreement demonstrates once again that, through dialogue and negotiation, peaceful solutions can be found to disputes that affect international peace and security.

The adoption of the Joint Plan has had a positive impact on the start of a new chapter in diplomatic relations between Iran and some very influential members of the international community. The brotherly country of Iran is a key partner in the search for political and negotiated solutions to the serious conflicts that afflict the roiled region of the Middle East, solutions that require the taking into account of Iran's views and interests. In that context, we welcome the fact that dialogue and cooperation has continued between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We also welcome the recent reports submitted by that multilateral institution that indicate that monitoring and verification activities are being carried out without any setbacks, and with the support and facilitation of the Iranian authorities. We encourage the parties to intensify their efforts so that by the end of 2015 all outstanding issues between the IAEA and Iran can be resolved. We acknowledge the role played by the Agency in resolving all issues related to the Iranian nuclear programme, and hope that cooperation will grow stronger with a view to moving forward with the measures related to the implementation of the Plan.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, an important member of the Non-Aligned Movement, has given tangible evidence of its commitment to comply with its obligations undertaken with the framework of the agreements reached with all the parties involved in the process. In that respect, we urge taking advantage of this political juncture to focus on resolving differences on the basis of dialogue and negotiation. Moreover, it is important to underscore that, once the IAEA informs the Security Council that the Islamic Republic of Iran has completed the implementation of the initial measures related to its nuclear programme as set out in resolution 2231 (2015), a significant change is expected to take place with regard to the sanctions regime applied to that country. The definitive lifting of the Security Council sanctions regime and the unilateral coercive measures implemented illegally against both Iran, as well as against other countries in relation to their cooperation with Iran, should be the next step once implementation day takes place, in accordance with the Plan of Action. We therefore hope that the end of the sanctions regime will facilitate, on the basis of mutual respect, the development of full relations in the economic, trade, financial, technological and energy sectors between Iran and the other members of the international community interested in strengthening ties with it.

In that context, Venezuela once again invokes the sovereign right of developing countries to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. To that end, Venezuela believes that, in addressing the issues on the agenda of the 1737 Committee, it is important to bear the current political context in mind as we move through this crucial phase of the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Under the current circumstances, the Committee should focus its efforts on contributing to the smooth implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and play a constructive role so as to ensure a definitive and comprehensive solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, while carrying out its work in a balanced manner in order to avoid any measures that could impact or hinder the implementation of the Plan.

With regard to the cases presented in the report of the Chair of the 1737 Committee, we encourage the parties to settle those differences in an atmosphere of respect and dialogue and based on objective investigations in the relevant bodies. We urge the Committee, in accordance with its mandate, to investigate and consider

the information on cases and to take appropriate action with the consent of all its members, including the country concerned itself.

We would like to reiterate that the most important task at this stage is to move forward with the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. My country reaffirms its full support for the implementation of this historic undertaking. We also encourage all Member States to respect and comply in good faith with the provisions adopted in this comprehensive agreement.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that, once the Iranian nuclear issue is resolved, the Security Council and the international community should devote themselves to continuing to work on the denuclearization of other regions of the world, in particular the Middle East.

Mr. Špokauskas (Lithuania): I would like to thank the Ambassador for his report and efforts in steering the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) during this crucial year.

Lithuania welcomes the fact that, since agreement was reached on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in Vienna five months ago, all sides have been taking the necessary steps according to the agreed-upon schedule. Implementation day is undoubtedly the next important milestone, and Lithuania hopes that Iran will complete its nuclear commitments fully and in good faith.

At the same time, the international community's ability to verify the implementation of those commitments is indispensable, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must be granted full access by Iran, as well as all the time it needs to thoroughly verify Iran's fulfilment of its nuclear commitments. Resolving the outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear programme, including its possible military dimension, is another important element in building the international community's trust. In that regard, we note the IAEA report on the final assessment of past and present outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear programme, which states that a range of activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device were conducted in Iran prior to the end of 2003, with some continuing thereafter. The report also states that the Agency has no credible indications of Iran's activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device after 2009.

In that regard, Lithuania welcomes the IAEA Board of Governors adoption by consensus earlier today of a resolution on JCPOA implementation, verification and monitoring in Iran.

As efforts to reach implementation day continue, all Security Council sanctions remain in effect and must be robustly implemented by all Member States. The Sanctions Committee must also fully implement its mandate and take appropriate action in response to sanctions violations. As on previous occasions, Lithuania cannot ignore the fact that Iran, while taking steps under the JCPOA, continues to disregard certain provisions of Security Council resolutions, in particular those related to ballistic missile programmes and conventional arms. In that regard, we note with concern the latest conclusion of the Panel of Experts that the launch of the Emad medium-range ballistic missile on 10 October was a violation by Iran of resolution 1929 (2010), which prohibits launches using ballistic missile technology. The 1737 Committee should now carry out its mandate in considering and taking appropriate action in response to that violation.

No less important is the need to focus on continuing reports of conventional arms transfers by Iran to countries in the Middle East, in contravention of the Council-imposed arms embargo. The latest reports on Iran's possible involvement in the supply of weapons to Yemen should be taken seriously and taken up by both the 1737 Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014).

Upon the IAEA-verified implementation by Iran of the nuclear-related measures, previous Council resolutions on Iran will be terminated, but will be subject to re-imposition in the event of significant non-compliance. However, specific restrictions on the transfer of proliferation-sensitive goods, ballistic missile activities, as well as a conventional arms embargo, will come into force. The Council will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of those restrictions and has to be fully prepared to undertake that task. Lithuania calls for a swift agreement on the practical arrangements needed for the Security Council to fully implement resolution 2231 (2015), and underscores the need to involve all Council members in that process.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Lithuania's belief that, if implemented fully and in good faith, the JCPOA will become a fundamental element in building trust

between Iran and the international community, and will contribute to regional and international peace and security.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the United States of America.

I thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his briefing. We are grateful for his leadership during this important transition period.

Five months have passed since the P5+1 countries, the European Union and Iran concluded the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Like others, I am pleased to note that the JCPOA participants are making progress in fulfilling their commitments under the deal. Iran is taking key steps outlined in the JCPOA, such as removing centrifuges, and it has begun work to eliminate 98 per cent of its enriched uranium stockpile. When the International Atomic Energy Agency verifies that Iran has completed those steps — we call this implementation day — then we will enter a new phase of this landmark deal.

After that day, however, the Council will continue to play a crucial role in JCPOA implementation and in monitoring compliance with resolution 2231 (2015). Prior to JCPOA implementation day, all the current Security Council sanctions remain in place. Nevertheless, we have seen a troubling tendency to look the other way when those measures were wilfully violated in recent months. For example, this past October, Iran launched a ballistic missile that was obviously capable of delivering a nuclear weapon. Resolution 1929 (2010), which is still in force, prohibits that kind of launch. After reviewing that incident, the independent Panel of Experts also concluded definitively that it was a violation of the resolution. Yet instead of an effective timely response, the Security Council has dithered. We intend to keep working with Council members so as to acknowledge and respond appropriately to that serious incident.

And there have been other violations. Just last week, the international affairs adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader admitted outright that Brigadier General Qasem Soleimani, who is subject to Security Council travel ban, visited Russia. That adviser called such travel "absolutely normal". Also, in late September, a shipment of arms from Iran was intercepted off the coast of Oman. That shipment was a violation of resolution 1747 (2007). We do not see how Council members can cast doubt on those violations. In many

cases, Iranian officials have boasted publicly about taking prohibited actions, leaving them no plausible deniability — no desire on their part for deniability. After the October launch, Iran's Defence Minister even declared, "We don't ask permission from anyone", as he then went on to describe the ballistic missile's technical capabilities. The Council cannot allow Iran to feel that it can violate our resolutions with impunity. Some Council members may not like those resolutions, but they are our resolutions.

Furthermore, we reject the notion that those countries that raise those violations in the Security Council, countries such as the United States, are somehow responsible for destabilizing the JCPOA. Implementing Security Council resolutions is the sine qua non of a credible, enforceable nuclear deal. To suggest otherwise is to miss the point of the JCPOA and the point of the Security Council. A sense of impunity for violators will not help this deal. The Council members that raise violations of our resolutions, who seek action from the Council in response to violations, are not the destabilizers. We are not the rule-breakers. Iran is, when it violates Council resolutions. It is not allowed under the resolutions, and they are admitting it.

The United States of America, as well as other Council members, have appropriately and firmly condemned those violations. We will continue to dedicate resources and work with international partners to make sure that United Nations measures are better enforced. We will continue to intercept and seize Iranian arms exports, in accordance with international law. We

will continue to identify and obstruct shipments to Iran of prohibited ballistic missile-related items. And we will continue to hold Iran accountable for violations of the measures imposed by the Council.

But that is not enough. The Security Council itself — we here, we 15 — must take responsibility to respond to violations of our resolutions. That will be a long-term challenge. After JCPOA implementation day, there will still be measures imposed under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. That is part of the JCPOA. Those measures, enforced by the Security Council, will remain in place for many years. That includes restrictions relating to arms transfers and ballistic missile-related items. The United States and our partners will continue to bring violations to the Security Council's attention and press for this organ to respond appropriately.

All of us are very pleased by the JCPOA. We are glad that it exists. We think it is good for peace and security. We have to remember how we got this deal; decisive Security Council action played a major role in getting Iran to the negotiating table. But our job here is not done. We have to work together in the same spirit of resolve that led to the JCPOA to support the implementation of this nuclear deal and to enforce the Council's resolutions.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.