



Security Council

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Letter dated 20 February 2020 from the Permanent Representative 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 recent incidents where Iran again acted in defiance of paragraph 3 of annex B to Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

Iran continues to develop its ballistic missile programme in defiance of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). On 9 February, Iran's Ministry of Defence announced that Iran had launched a Simorgh space launch vehicle, but that the vehicle had failed to accomplish its mission of placing a satellite into orbit. Despite the failure to place a satellite into orbit, Iran's Ministry of Defence also announced that the research objectives for the launch had been met and that the telemetry data collected would help improve future launches. Various Iranian officials have announced in press interviews that additional launches are planned.

Paragraph 3 of annex B states in relevant part that "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". Although not a ballistic missile, the Simorgh space launch vehicle incorporates technologies that are virtually identical to and interchangeable with those used in ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. The phrase "ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons" in paragraph 3 of annex B includes Missile Technology Control Regime category I systems. By definition, ballistic missile systems designed to be Missile Technology Control Regime category I systems, which are those capable of delivering a payload of at least 500 kg to a range of at least 300 km, are inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons. Therefore, launches of the Simorgh space launch vehicle, which relies on technology interchangeable with that of Missile Technology Control Regime category I ballistic missiles, are an activity that the Security Council has clearly called upon Iran not to undertake.

We once again urge the international community to hold Iran accountable for its actions. Iran's further development of ballistic missile technology contributes to regional tension and poses a threat to international peace and security. When Iran chooses to defy the Security Council repeatedly without consequence, it undermines the fundamental credibility of the Council.

Moreover, Iran's repeated launches in defiance of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) demonstrate that the Council should consider reimposing the binding restrictions on such activity from Council resolution [1929 \(2010\)](#). Iran's continued defiance of



resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) means that the Council must strengthen existing sanctions on Iran to address the threat.

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 States Members of the United Nations have an obligation under that resolution not to supply, sell or transfer to Iran certain 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 or brokering or other services related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology, or to the supply, sale, manufacture or use of certain ballistic missile-related items, materials, equipment, goods and technology absent advance, case-by-case Security Council approval. The Secretary-General's eighth report on the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) documents Member State reports of continued attempts by Iran to procure missile-usable equipment and technology in violation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), underscoring that Iran continues to flout its obligations under Security Council resolutions.

We ask that the Secretary-General take Iran's actions as described in the present letter into account in his upcoming report on the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). We also ask that you circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Kelly Craft**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative