



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

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Statement

By

**H.E. Dr. Halimah DeShong
Deputy Permanent Representative**

Non-Proliferation (Iran)

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President. I also thank Under Secretary-General DiCarlo, Ambassador Skoog and Ambassador Pecsteen, in his capacity as Facilitator of the 2231 Committee, for their briefings.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes the 9th report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2231. We are dedicated to the full implementation of the Resolution and we strongly support the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The JCPOA is a key pillar of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture and multilateral diplomacy. Its preservation is crucial to safeguard peace and stability in the region and the wider world.

We deeply regret the United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA and its subsequent decisions to re-impose sanctions and to terminate waivers. These actions are contradictory to the requirements and goals of Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA, and they do not encourage an environment conducive to international cooperation. We encourage the United States to rejoin the Agreement and to lift all sanctions. The appeal for a removal of these sanctions has become even more urgent considering the COVID-19 pandemic, as they considerably undermine and impede the COVID-19 response and mitigation efforts.

We also regret the Islamic Republic of Iran's decision to cease performing several of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. We take note that Iran has indicated that these steps are reversible, having undertaken them subsequent to the United States' withdrawal from the Agreement. We urge Iran to return to full compliance to meet the totality of its obligations. It is our hope, that despite recent declarations, Iran will remain a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines supports the mandate of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as it works towards ensuring peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. The important role that the IAEA plays in the verification and monitoring of compliance with Resolution 2231 cannot be overstated. We recognize Iran's cooperation with the IAEA thus far,

and we encourage further cooperation in implementing its NPT Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol.

We welcome the developments made in relation to the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX). These advancements are essential to the normalization of trade and economic relations with Iran. We also take note of the activities of the procurement channel. This channel must remain operational and effective to ensure that a new relationship is indeed cultivated with Iran.

The JCPOA remains the only viable path to ensure a peaceful, comprehensive, and long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. In this regard, we implore all parties to fully implement their obligations under the Agreement. Further, we urge all sides to exercise maximum restraint, to refrain from actions that can inflame tensions and to commit fully to dialogue and negotiation, to resolve the current issues and preserve the JCPOA.

In closing, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its commitment to achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world. As a member of the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean's "*Zone of Peace*" and a party to the Tlatelolco Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the NPT and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we appeal to the international community to remain steadfast in its commitment to disarmament, as this is inextricably linked to non-proliferation.

I thank you.