



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

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Statement

By

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Counsellor**

Non-Proliferation (Iran)

United Nations Security Council

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Please check against delivery

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

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) remains a central pillar of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture and multilateral diplomacy. It is fundamental to the maintenance of regional and international peace and security and its preservation is therefore of critical importance. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its commitment to the full implementation of Resolution 2231, and we remain strongly in support of the JCPOA.

We deeply regret the United States' May 2018 withdrawal from the Agreement. Its subsequent decisions to re-impose sanctions, to terminate waivers and the issuance of the August notification to the Security Council are actions which are contradictory to the requirements and goals of the Resolution and the JCPOA. Regarding the August notification, we maintain the position, outlined in the 20th August 2020 joint letter of the A3 (Niger, South Africa and Tunisia) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, that: *“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 in terms of resolution 2231”*.

We continue to urge the United States to rejoin the JCPOA and further, we appeal for the lifting all unilateral coercive measures which not only contravene Resolution 2231 and conflict with the objectives of the JCPOA, but considerably debilitate the Islamic Republic of Iran's ability to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. In an interconnected global community, this public health emergency demands international cooperation to ensure that **all** states are able to effectively and efficiently respond to the challenges. Political disputes must therefore be set aside to foster solidarity and to save lives.

We also regret Iran's decision to cease performing several of its nuclear 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. However, we urge Iran to return to full compliance to fulfil the totality of its obligations and to assist in safeguarding the

Agreement. In this regard, we recognize Iran's continued cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in its verification and monitoring activities. Our support for the mandate of the IAEA to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology is steadfast.

Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA were not only conceived to guarantee that Iran's nuclear programme would be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. They are also intended to nurture an environment that promotes and facilitates the development of normal trade and economic relations with the country. As such, the procurement channel must continue to function to ensure that both the Resolution and the JCPOA indeed confer the benefits of the relationship which they were envisaged to cultivate. Similarly, the sustained operation of the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) is essential.

Mr. President,

It is only through a commitment to dialogue and negotiation and the effective fulfilment of all obligations will the current differences between JCPOA participant states be resolved. Further, we urge the entire international community to refrain from taking actions that can exacerbate tensions and deter positive engagement and the full implementation of the Agreement. On this point, we firmly condemn all targeted extrajudicial killings which are a grave violation of international human rights law and for which perpetrators must be held accountable.

We reiterate that the JCPOA remains the only viable path to ensure a peaceful, comprehensive, and long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The international community must therefore support it and all other multilateral instruments aimed at promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. For its part, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its commitment to achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world.

In closing, we say good-bye to and thank Belgium for its dedicated work as Facilitator of the 2231 Format. We also bid farewell to our colleagues from the Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa. We congratulate South Africa on a well organized and immensely successful

presidency – even though there is still a week to go we hope you have a well-deserved quiet rest of presidency. It was certainly an honour to work with you all this year.

I thank you.