



**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

30 June 2021
New York

Please check against delivery

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

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains committed to the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 2231 and we continue to strongly support the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The JCPOA is undoubtedly a triumph of multilateral diplomacy, and it is a central pillar of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture. Its preservation and revival are critical to safeguarding peace and stability in the Middle East and indeed the wider world.

We deeply regret the United States' May 2018 withdrawal from the Agreement and its subsequent decisions to re-impose sanctions and to terminate waivers. These actions are antithetical to the requirements and goals of Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA. We continue to urge the United States to rejoin the Agreement and further, we appeal for the lifting of all unilateral coercive measures. These measures not only contravene Resolution 2231 and conflict with the objectives of the JCPOA but have also debilitated Iran's economy and have considerably impeded its ability to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have taken note of the United States' February 2021 notification indicating its withdrawal of letters to the Security Council issued in August and September of 2020. We welcome this decision, and it is our hope that it will foster an environment conducive to international cooperation.

We regret Iran's decision to cease performing several of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. Iran has indicated that these steps are reversible, having undertaken them subsequent to the United States' withdrawal from the Agreement. We therefore urge Iran to return to full compliance to fulfil the totality of its obligations.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) mandate to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear science and technology is vital to maintaining international peace and security and we remain in support of it. The recent halting of the Agency's verification and monitoring activities in Iran is concerning, as it inhibits the Agency's ability to assess the implementation of Iran's nuclear-related commitments and thereby undermines transparency and

confidence. We strongly urge Iran to extend the monitoring agreement and restore access to the Agency in accordance with Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA.

Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA were not only conceived to guarantee the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme but are also intended to cultivate an environment that facilitates the development of normal trade and economic relations with the country. In this regard, the continued effective functioning of the procurement channel as well as the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) are essential.

Mr. President,

Only through a commitment to dialogue and negotiation and the effective fulfilment of all obligations will the current differences be resolved. We therefore support the ongoing diplomatic process in Vienna, and we welcome the progress made thus far. We implore the parties to remain committed to preserving the Agreement and to continue to engage constructively in a spirit of mutual respect and compromise. Further, we urge the entire international community to refrain from provocative actions and rhetoric which may inflame tensions and deter positive engagement.

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 similar multilateral instruments. 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, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its commitment to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and we remain steadfast in our commitment to disarmament, a goal which is inextricably linked to non-proliferation.

In closing, we congratulate Estonia on a well-organized and successful presidency.

I thank you.