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to the United Nations**

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**Statement**

By

**Ms. Diani Jamesha Prince  
Counsellor**

**Non-Proliferation (Iran)**

United Nations Security Council

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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 support the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The JCPOA remains a central pillar of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture and it is unquestionably a triumph of multilateral diplomacy. Its preservation and revival are therefore critical to safeguard 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 ran counter to the requirements and objectives of Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA. Further, such actions do not encourage an environment conducive to constructive diplomatic engagement. We therefore continue to urge the United States to rejoin the Agreement and we appeal for the immediate lifting of all unilateral coercive measures. This appeal has become even more urgent as these sanctions have considerably limited Iran's ability to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also regret 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 fulfil the totality of its obligations.

The JCPOA remains the only viable path to ensure a peaceful, comprehensive, and long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. We therefore support the ongoing diplomatic process in Vienna, and we encourage the parties to build on the progress made thus far by fully engaging in a spirit of mutual respect and compromise. Parties should remain mindful of the purpose of the Agreement in an effort to find common ground. Further, members of the international community should refrain from provocative actions that can inflame tensions and deter positive engagement.

We support the mandate of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as it works towards ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. The importance of the Agency's verification and monitoring role cannot be overstated and as such, it is critical that it is granted regular access to effectively carry out its activities. We encourage the parties to engage constructively on this issue.

Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA were not only conceived to guarantee the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme but are also intended to nurture an environment that promotes and 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,

The international community must continue to support the JCPOA and all similar multilateral instruments aimed at promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. For its part, 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.

I thank you.