



**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

Speech by H.E. Mr Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Security Council

Briefing on Non-proliferation/Resolution 2231/JCPOA/Iran

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**Thank you Mr President,**

I will now speak in my national capacity.

Allow me first of all to thank the Kuwaiti presidency of the Council for holding this important meeting. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Ms Rosemary DiCarlo and the representative of the European Union for their presentations.

**Mr President,**

As Ms DiCarlo has just pointed out, the Joint Global Action Plan is a key component of multilateralism.

First of all, it is one of the great successes of nuclear non-proliferation. Since its entry into force more than three years ago, it has ensured that the Iranian programme has remained exclusively peaceful, as the International Atomic Energy Agency has just confirmed for the 15<sup>th</sup> time.

Secondly, it is the result of 12 years of intense diplomatic activities, based on dialogue and respect for the parties.

The Joint Global Action Plan is more than a nuclear agreement. It is a confidence-building tool.

**Mr President,**

We share the concerns of our European partners regarding Iran's ballistic activities. We call on Iran to refrain from such activities, in particular ballistic missile launches, which is inconsistent with Resolution 2231. These activities deepen mistrust and only contribute to growing tensions in the region.

We are concerned by Iran's activities that are contributing to regional instability, including those in the area of missile and arms transfers to State and non-State actors in the region, in particular the Houthi in Yemen. We call on Iran to comply with all relevant Council resolutions and to engage in serious dialogue on these concerns, including with other actors in the region.

**Mr President,** I return to the nuclear agreement.

Belgium, like the Secretary-General and the members of this Council, regrets the withdrawal of the United States from the Action Plan. It also regrets the reimposition of unilateral US sanctions and the recent lifting of exemptions in the nuclear sector, which prevent not only Iran but also the other UN Member States - parties and non-parties to the JCPoA - from implementing their commitments under Resolution 2231, which was agreed by all members of this Council and supported by a large majority of the international community.

Belgium is extremely concerned by Iran's announcements of non-compliance with some of its commitments. We understand Iran's difficult economic and political situation, but like our European partners, we reject a "less for less" approach and call on Iran to comply with Resolution 2231 in its entirety, including the restrictive measures in Annex B.

**Mr President,**

Belgium calls on the stakeholders to exercise restraint. Dismantling a working nuclear agreement would not put us in a better position to discuss regional issues or provide an immediate solution to the risks it already addresses.

We also call on the stakeholders to not underestimate the devastating and counterproductive effects on the entire current and future non-proliferation regime. Non-proliferation and dispute resolution require joint negotiated solutions, developed collectively, in full respect of the Charter of the United Nations.

There is no credible alternative to this approach, which is the very foundation of this Council. There is no credible alternative to the Joint Global Action Plan and our duty is to preserve it.

Thank you.