



People's Republic of China



Islamic Republic of Iran



Russian Federation

New York, 28 August 2025

H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations

H.E. Mr. Eloy Alfaro de Alba
President of the Security Council
United Nations

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,
Dear Mr. President,

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, stress the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), endorsed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015), is the unique achievement of multilateral diplomacy and a role model to resolve disputes through dialogue and engagement, and its full implementation could positively contribute to regional and international peace and security.

We recall the Joint Statement of the Beijing Meeting between China, Iran, and Russia (March 14, 2025), reaffirming that it's necessary to terminate all unlawful unilateral sanctions, that political and diplomatic engagement and dialogue based on the principle of mutual respect remains the only viable and practical option, and that relevant parties should be committed to addressing the root cause of the current situation and abandoning sanction, pressure or threat of force.

We have the honor to bring to your attention an urgent matter pertaining to the disruption of the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), which endorsed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). In particular, we refer to the claims of the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (E3), in their letter dated 28 August 2025 on allegedly invoking operative paragraph 11 and the so-called "snapback" mechanism provided by the abovementioned resolution for diligent participant Member States.

This action by the Foreign Ministers of E3 clearly contravenes the resolution, and therefore, it is by default legally and procedurally flawed. The E3's course abuses the authority and functions of the UN Security Council while misleading its members as well as the international community concerning the root causes of breakdown in the implementation of the JCPOA and the UNSCR 2231. At the inception of the JCPOA, when the "snapback" mechanism was established, it could hardly be foreseen that the US would be the first to break its obligations. The US decision in May 2018 to unilaterally withdraw from the JCPOA and undermine the



People's Republic of China



Islamic Republic of Iran



Russian Federation

resolution fundamentally affected the modalities of triggering the “snapback” mechanism that can no longer be used in relation to Iran without properly addressing and resolving in advance the US significant non-performance.

We deeply regret that Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, as well as the EU, not only agreed to comply with the illegal discriminatory US sanctions against Iran but also imposed their own restrictive measures in breach of the UNSCR 2231 and the JCPOA despite their obligations therein, including in the run-up to the Transition Day on October 18, 2023. It would be worth recalling in this context a key principle of international law endorsed by the International Court of Justice that “a party which disowns or does not fulfil its own obligations cannot be recognized as retaining the rights which it claims to derive from the relationship”.

In contrast, Iran's remedial measures, including its suspension of implementation of the JCPOA commitments, were taken strictly in response to the US withdrawal and violation of all its commitments and after an extended period of Iran's continued compliance and the E3/EU inaction in redressing the situation. Reciprocal steps taken by Iran cannot serve as a basis for triggering the “snapback” mechanism. It is unacceptable that this mechanism is misused to reward the US withdrawal and the subsequent E3/EU failure to uphold their obligations, including those that were set forth in the statement following the May 25, 2018, meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission.

The UNSCR 2231 is indivisible, and the JCPOA is an inseparable part of it. To that effect, paragraph 11 of the resolution does not exist in isolation from paragraphs 36 and 37 of the JCPOA. In fact, the E3 is not entitled to invoke operative paragraph 11 and send a notification to the UN Security Council of an issue that it believes constitutes significant non-performance of commitments under the JCPOA before the requirements of paragraph 36 are fulfilled.

Claims by the E3 that it has exhausted the procedure set forth in paragraph 36 of the JCPOA are false. In fact, the JCPOA Joint Commission was not convened to consider the communication of Germany, France, and the United Kingdom dated January 14, 2020.

The dispute resolution mechanism was not activated due to some procedural gaps that in turn, made it impossible to review the issue at the Ministerial level or in the Advisory Board. Since the requirements of paragraphs 36 and 37 are not met, the communication by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom cannot be considered as a notification submitted by a JCPOA participant State under paragraph 11 of the UNSCR 2231.

We would like to remind that nuclear-related concerns contained in previous UN Security Council resolutions on Iran were fully addressed through the JCPOA. The IAEA confirmed Iran's full compliance with its relevant commitments in the report of the IAEA Director General to the Board of Governors GOV/2015/68 of December 2, 2015, and in the resolution of the Board of Governors GOV/2015/72 of December 15, 2015. Bearing this in mind, the re-imposition of terminated UN Security Council's sanctions on Iran is irrational and preposterous. It would only lead to rewarding the E3 for its significant non-performance, undoing years of



People's Republic of China



Islamic Republic of Iran



Russian Federation

diplomatic efforts, undermining the credibility of multilateral agreements, and setting a precedent for selective enforcement of international obligations. Thus, it is important to uphold the UNSCR 2231, including its timeframes.

In view of the above, the UN Security Council cannot proceed on the basis of the communication submitted by the E3 and should consider it null and void. Any step or action taken in disregard or contravention of the UNSCR 2231 cannot result in lawful international obligations for the UN Member states.

We strongly urge the members of the UN Security Council to reject the claims of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom on allegedly invoking the “snapback” mechanism and reaffirm their commitment to the principles of international law and multilateral diplomacy.

We call on France, Germany, and the United Kingdom to change their destructive course, to step back and, as they advised the US on August 20, 2020, “to refrain from any action that would only deepen divisions in the UN Security Council or that would have serious adverse consequences on its work”. It is essential that the relevant parties stay committed to finding a political settlement that accommodates the concerns of all parties through diplomatic engagement and dialogue based on the principle of mutual respect, and refrain from unilateral sanctions, threat of force, or any other action that may escalate the situation. We also call on all countries to contribute to creating a favorable atmosphere and conditions for diplomatic efforts.

We would be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

Wang Yi

Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the People's Republic of China

Seyed Abbas Araghchi.

Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Lavrov Sergey Viktorovich

Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation