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Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7739th meeting
Monday, 18 July 2016, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Bessho	(Japan)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	China	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2016/589)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2016/589)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Germany to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and His Excellency Mr. João Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2016/589, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015).

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Mr. Feltman, Mr. Vale de Almeida, and His Excellency Mr. Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Permanent Representative of Spain, in his capacity as facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

I now give the floor to Mr. Feltman.

Mr. Feltman: A year ago, the Security Council adopted resolution 2231 (2015), which endorsed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The resolution, including the historic agreement it addresses, stands apart as a signal accomplishment in the history of the Council. Through diplomacy and negotiations, China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the support of the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed one of the most pressing peace and security issues on the agenda of the Security Council for the past decade.

Resolution 2231 (2015) heralded a new chapter in Iran's relationship with the Security Council. Fully implemented, the JCPOA will reinforce global non-proliferation norms and assure the international community of the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. It will also, through the lifting of sanctions, help to realize the long-awaited hopes and aspirations of the Iranian people to be reconnected to the global economy and the international community.

Six months after implementation day, the Secretary-General commends the Islamic Republic of Iran for implementing its nuclear-related commitments, as verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency. He also commends the European Union and the United States for steps they have taken in accordance with their sanctions-related commitments under the JCPOA.

As we consider today's report (S/2016/589) on the implementation of the provisions of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015), we do so against the backdrop of progress in the implementation of the JCPOA and the express commitment of all its participants to jointly working through implementation challenges. As the Secretary-General notes in his report, implementation challenges exist for any agreement, let alone one as comprehensive and complex as the JCPOA. He calls on all participants to stay the course to fully implement all aspects of that landmark agreement and work through challenges in the spirit of cooperation, compromise, good faith and reciprocity.

I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to brief the Security Council on the first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). The report was circulated to the Council on 1 July, pursuant to annex B to resolution 2231 (2015) and paragraph 7 of the note by the President of the Security Council, issued on 16 January 2016 (S/2016/44). This report, officially released today, strictly focuses on the restrictive measures in annex B of resolution 2231 (2015, which came into force on 16 January.

Our mandate is neither to report on all other aspects of the resolution or annex A of the JCPOA, nor touch upon the work of the Joint Commission established in the agreement. These annex B provisions include restrictions on nuclear-related transfers and activities, ballistic missile-related transfers and activities, and arms-related transfers, as well as an assets freeze and a travel ban. The report informs the Security Council that since 16 January, the Secretary-General has not received any report, and is he aware of no open source of information regarding the supply, sale, transfer or export

to Iran of nuclear-related items undertaken contrary to the provisions of the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015).

As Council members are aware, the Secretariat helped to establish the operational linkages between the Security Council and the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission for the processing of nuclear-related proposals submitted by Member States under the procurement channel. These have been established with due regard for information security and confidentiality. Optional forms in all six official United Nations languages are also available for use by Member States on the Council's 2231 web page.

I now turn to the restrictive measures on ballistic missile-related transfers and activities.

Since 16 January, the Secretariat has received no information regarding the supply, sale, transfer or export to Iran of ballistic missile-related items undertaken contrary to the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015). However, in early March 2016, during military exercises, Iran launched a series of ballistic missiles. The report includes details of those launches from Iranian media sources and information provided to the Secretary-General by France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. The report also includes the views of Iran on the issue.

As Council members are aware, the Security Council discussed those launches on 14 March and 1 April. There are clear differences in the Council regarding whether those ballistic missile launches are inconsistent with the resolution. Iran, too, has its own interpretation of this provision. While it is for the Security Council to interpret its own resolutions, the Secretary-General has stressed that we must maintain the momentum created by the conclusion of the JCPOA, consistent with its constructive spirit. In that regard, he calls upon Iran to avoid such ballistic missile launches, which have the potential to increase tensions in the region.

In terms of restrictions on arms transfers, the report notes the seizure of an arms shipment by the United States Navy in the Gulf of Oman in March. The United States concluded that the arms had originated in Iran and that this transfer was contrary to the provisions of annex B to the resolution. Iran informed the Secretariat that it had never engaged in such activity. The Secretariat will continue reviewing the information provided by both countries.

The report also provides information to the Security Council on the participation of Iranian entities in the Fifth Iraq Defence Exhibition, held from 5 to 8 March in Baghdad. It is our understanding that the transfer of arms from Iran to Iraq should have required the prior approval of the Security Council, pursuant to paragraph 6 (b) of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015). Iran considered that no prior approval was required from the Council for that activity because Iran retained ownership of the items exhibited. It also appears that the Defence Industries Organisation, an entity currently on the 2231 list, may have participated in the exhibition, which may have implications for the implementation of the assets freeze provisions in annex B. Finally, the report also draws the attention of Council members to the possible foreign travel undertaken by Major General Qasem Soleimani contrary to the provisions of annex B of the resolution.

In resolution 2231 (2015), the Council expressed its desire to bring about a fundamental shift in its relationship with Iran. I would like to share the fact that we had regular and close interactions with Iran throughout the process of drafting the report, including sharing with its representatives relevant information that the Secretariat was examining and providing them with a right of reply. The Secretariat intends to continue its close interaction with Iran. The next report of the Secretary-General will be submitted to the Council in January 2017.

As we mark the first anniversary of the JCPOA and the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), the Secretary-General wishes to reaffirm the enormous responsibility that JCPOA participants carry for the full and effective implementation of the agreement. Hope for a more secure world, closer partnership to resolve common challenges, and the delivery of tangible benefits to the people of Iran rest in the Council's hands.

The President: I thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Vale de Almeida.

Mr. Vale de Almeida: I thank you, Sir, for giving me the floor. I am honoured to address the Council today on behalf of the designate representative of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in her capacity as Coordinator of the Joint Commission established by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), to whom I shall refer hereafter as the "Coordinator".

The date of 14 July marked the first anniversary of the conclusion of the JCPOA and six months from its implementation day. In this first year, important steps have been taken by all parties, the E3/EU+3 and Iran, towards the successful implementation of the deal. We are also pleased to say that JCPOA implementation is on track. So far, all parties have fulfilled their commitments, as confirmed by the two reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iran's nuclear commitments and by the lifting of the agreed nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions on implementation day. However, JCPOA implementation is still a work in progress and we expect the full and effective implementation throughout the lifetime of the agreement on the part of all sides. We remain committed to that goal.

As Coordinator of the Joint Commission, the body established by the JCPOA, the High Representative and its representatives oversee the successful implementation of the deal, as well as the effective operation of its working groups. We have a strong interest in and responsibility for the successful implementation of the deal, which we believe is a clear demonstration that with political will, perseverance and multilateral diplomacy, workable solutions can be found to the most difficult problems. In that respect, another meeting of the Joint Commission with the E3/EU+3 and Iran will take place in Vienna tomorrow.

I would also like at this point to extend my gratitude to the facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), my good friend His Excellency Mr. Román Oyarzun Marchesi, for his excellent cooperation since implementation day, and to thank our colleagues in the Security Council Affairs Division for their unwavering support regarding the establishment of the procurement channel. I would also like to take note of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2016/589) on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), as outlined by the Under-Secretary-General.

I will now focus on the work of the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission. The Coordinator of the Joint Commission and the Procurement Working Group is responsible for the smooth operation of that newly established mechanism, which has been tasked to review the proposals of States seeking to engage in activities with Iran that are for nuclear and non-nuclear civilian end-uses. On implementation day, the Joint Commission established the Procurement Working Group, which is comprised of E3/EU+3 and Iranian representatives. The Group has been in full operation since then.

Transparency has been one of our guiding principles during the negotiations and a cornerstone of the JCPOA. According to paragraph 6.10 of JCPOA annex IV,

> "the Joint Commission will report to the United Nations Security Council at least every 6 months on the status of the Procurement Working Group's decisions and on any implementation issues" (*resolution 2231 (2015), annex A, p. 92*).

In this context, on 8 July, the Coordinator of the Procurement Working Group submitted to the facilitator, on behalf of the Joint Commission, the report of the Joint Commission to the Security Council on the status of the Procurement Working Group's decisions and on any implementation issues. This is the first report of its kind; it is factual, and it aims at providing the facilitator and Security Council members with an overview of the work undertaken by the Procurement Working Group in the period since JCPOA implementation day, 16 January 2016, up to 6 July.

During that period, the participants in the Procurement Working Group — the E/EU3+3 and Iran — worked intensively to establish the Group and define its modalities for operation. Participants held seven meetings, at one of which the IAEA participated as an observer. The Group has made great efforts to be as transparent as possible, without compromising confidentiality, by reaching out to third States and promoting a better understanding of its aims, objectives and review process. To be more precise, since JCPOA implementation, the Group has collectively engaged with third States and briefed representatives of the Security Council, as well as of States Members of the United Nations, during an open briefing organized by the facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). Participants also held separate bilateral discussions with a number of interested third States.

We have taken note of the points raised by States during those meetings. In that respect, the Joint Commission has endorsed several documents relating to the work of the Procurement Working Group, namely, the information on the procurement channel, the optional application form, the optional end-use certification and the relevant explanatory notes, as well as the statement on confidentiality in the Procurement Working Group and the Joint Commission for matters relating to the procurement channel. All of those

documents have been published on the Security Council website.

Let me conclude by reiterating our strong interest and sense of responsibility in the successful operation of the Procurement Working Group and of the JCPOA as a whole.

The President: I thank Mr. Vale de Almeida for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi.

Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Feltman and Ambassador Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, for their briefings.

According to the note by the President of the Security Council, the Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) shall brief the members of the Security Council on his work and on the implementation of the resolution every six months. In my briefing, which will be short, I will highlight three parts of my report: first, the setting up of the 2231 (2015) format and the procurement channel; secondly, the monitoring of the resolution; and, finally, issues related to transparency, outreach and guidance.

First, with regard to the setting up of the 2231 (2015) format, I should recognize that, when the Council appointed me as Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), the first thing that came to my mind was: What is a Facilitator of a resolution? The 2231 (2015) format did not exist and none of us, nor members of our team, really knew what the new provisions set forth in resolution 2231 (2015) entailed for the Facilitator. Hence my first task was to set up the 2231 (2015) format and to develop a new working method. That work would never have been possible without the valuable assistance of the Secretariat, specifically through the Security Council Affairs Division.

One of the most challenging issues was establishing a channel for communication between the Security Council and the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). For such transactions, which need to go both through the Joint Commission and the Security Council, we had to figure out two main things: first, the format we should use to communicate with them and, most important, the issues we would inform each other about on a regular basis. The Secretariat played a crucial role in that regard, as it provided us with templates for each type of communication.

To date, to my surprise, we have only received one proposal by a Member State, which was subsequently withdrawn, to participate in permitted activities as set forth in paragraph 2 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015). During the reporting period I did not receive any notification regarding certain activities described in paragraph 2 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015), nor did I receive travel-ban or assets-freeze exemptions requests. However, the good news is that system is operational. I am sure that it will provide legal certainty, and I hope that my successors will find it to be solid and useful.

Another task pertaining to the setting up of the 2231 (2015) system was the establishment of a website. I believe we have developed a very instructive website for those interested in the implementation of the resolution, in particular with regard to information on nuclear transfers and other activities.

The second part of my report pertains to the monitoring of the resolution. During the reporting period, the Council received information on alleged actions inconsistent with the resolution. The Council received information on 7 and 9 March with regard to ballistic-missile launches by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Security Council met under the resolution 2231 (2015) format to further consider those launches. I am not going to repeat the discussion that took place, as it is well described in the report. However, I would like to highlight some of the conclusions that were drawn from that meeting.

First, the Security Council agrees that all Member States, including Iran, must act in accordance with all the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015). Secondly, it is essential that the Security Council act with unity when it comes to resolution 2231 (2015), so as to assist in its effective implementation and to create legal certainty.

The Council has also received information with regard to two alleged cases of arms seizures. On 7 June, a Member State submitted a report informing that its naval forces had encountered and boarded a ship that was transiting international waters in the vicinity of the Gulf of Oman. According to the report, the arms originated in Iran and were likely bound for Yemen. With regard to this case, I sent a letter to the Permanent Representative of Iran in which I invited his Government to comment on the report. As I was finishing my report,

Iran had still not responded formally to my letter. However, in the course of my frequent contacts with the Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations, the Mission informed me that it rejected such an allegation and that Iran had never engaged in such delivery.

On 5 July, another Member State submitted to the Security Council a report informing that its naval forces had encountered and boarded a ship in the northern Indian Ocean that contained an major arms cache. The Member State concluded that the arms originated in Iran and were likely bound for Yemen and Somalia. In that connection, I would like to stress that, under paragraph 6 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015), engaging in the activities I have just described without the authorization of the Security Council would be a violation of the resolution.

Thirdly, during this period, I attached high priority to transparency, outreach and practical guidance. In order to improve the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), it is important that all stakeholders understand perfectly the provisions of the resolution. On 1 March, I convened an open briefing on resolution 2231 (2015), during which I gave an overview of its main provisions and its implementation by the Security Council. I believe that transparency is especially important in this case, given the technical complexity of the resolution.

Finally, I would like to say that it has been a great pleasure for me to work with the members of the Security Council, the European Union delegation and the Permanent Mission of Iran. They all demonstrated flexibility and a constructive spirit during the period under review, which allowed for the report and the Facilitator's activities to come about easily. I have nothing but words of gratitude for them.

The President: I thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his briefing.

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Ms. Power (United States of America): I thank Under-Secretary-General Feltman for his briefing today and Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi both for the briefing and the leadership that he and his team have demonstrated in supporting the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

It has been one year since the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, China, Russia and the European Union (EU) concluded a deal with Iran to ensure that Iran's nuclear programme is and will remain a peaceful one. Despite a long history of deep mistrust on both sides, commitments have been kept. Despite dire predictions to the contrary, the deal has held. That is a truly significant achievement.

In the time since, Iran has dismantled two-thirds of its centrifuges and filled the core of its plutonium reactor at Arak with concrete. More than 98 per cent of Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium has been moved out of the country. The remainder is under continuous monitoring to make sure that Iran stays withing the stockpile limit. As result, Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon remain closed, and Iran's break-out time has been extended from two to three months before the deal to at least a year today. We know all this and more because the deal granted the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) unprecedented access to Iran's nuclear facility and supply chains, allowing for effective monitoring and evaluation. If and when questions or concerns arise in this monitoring, we have a process to address them.

The United States acknowledges and welcomes Iran's swift implementation of this historic deal, which has produced real, tangible change — change that, without question, has improved international peace and security, which is the primary purpose of the Security Council. We also recognize that negotiating this deal and implementing it has required overcoming great scepticism in some Iranian quarters. The world is safer because of this deal.

It has been six months since the IAEA's verification that Iran completed its key nuclear-related commitments under the deal and the simultaneous lifting of United Nations, EU and United States nuclear-related sanctions. While Member State implementation of the commitments of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is a subject for the Joint Commission rather than the Council, let me be clear that the United States, our P5+1 partners and the EU have thus far fully and unequivocally implemented all our commitments under this deal by lifting nuclear-related sanctions specified in the deal and by providing clear and timely guidance to Government and private-sector partners about engagement with Iran that is now permitted.

Consistent with the terms of the deal and directly resulting from the choices that its leaders have made, the economic burden on the Iranian people has been eased, and the United States will continue to implement

its commitments in good faith and without exception under the JCPOA. Yet while it is undeniable that the deal has led to significant verifiable progress in rolling back Iran's nuclear programme, it is also true that Iran and other Member States have at times taken actions that, while not always violations of the JCPOA, are inconsistent with resolution 2231 (2015).

The report released today by the Secretary-General (S/2016/589) documents a number of such actions. These include Iran's repeated ballistic missile launches, which the Council called upon Iran not to undertake. The report states that these launches have the potential to increase tensions within the region. Iran does not hide these launches. The report also notes violations by Iran of resolution 2231 (2015), such as armed transfers to other parts of the region, some of which have been interdicted. The Secretary-General's report also documents violations of asset freezes and travel restrictions applicable to Iranian entities designated by the Council, such as the participation of Iran's Defence Industries Organisation in an arms exhibition in Iraq.

No one — including United Nations Member States, the Security Council and the Secretariat — should turn a blind eye to such actions. As we have said all along with regard to this resolution, implementation is everything. That means that when the resolution is violated or actions are taken that are inconsistent with it, those actions must be documented and condemned. And it means that all Member States, especially the members of the Council, the P5+1 countries and Iran, which negotiated the deal, must do their part in implementing the resolution. That is why the United States commends the actions of the Royal Australian Navy and the French Navy, which intercepted and confiscated Iranian arms shipments on 27 February and 20 March, respectively, as the United States Navy did on 28 March. It also means that the Council and the international community must call out Member States when they do not fulfil their responsibilities under the resolution.

The United States disagrees strongly with elements of the report, including the fact that its content goes beyond the appropriate scope. We understand that Iran also disagrees strongly with parts of the report. For our part, while some have argued that to be balanced, the report should give Iran a chance to express complaints about sanctions relief under the deal, the Security Council did not mandate the Secretariat to report on issues unrelated to implementation of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015). It was instead the Joint Commission that was carefully designed by the JCPOA participants to discuss and resolve such implementation issues, and that is the appropriate channel through which to raise such concerns.

The United States has fully implemented all of its sanctions-related commitments under the deal, and we have responded to questions about them both through the Joint Commission and through extensive bilateral engagement with Iran. Even beyond fulfilling its JCPOA commitments, the United States has engaged with Governments, businesses and banks throughout the world that have questions about our changed sanctions environment.

To be clear, the deal has not resolved all of our differences with Iran. We continue to be profoundly concerned about human rights abuses that Iran commits against its own people and the instability that Iran continues to fuel through its destabilizing activities in the region, including repeated threats against Israel. But we are undoubtedly in a better place to address these and other challenges without the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran. The lines of communication that we have developed with Iran over the course of our negotiations have already proven useful to engaging in other areas of vital interest, as occurred in January when Iran detained ten United States sailors and two United States naval vessels in the Persian Gulf. The sailors were released in less than a day in no small part because Secretary Kerry and Foreign Minister Zarif are able to work constructively. Iran has joined the International Syria Support Group, which is trying to resolve the horrific conflict in Syria — a goal that would be impossible without all the countries that are involved in the conflict in Syria at the table.

In conclusion, as we all know, it took the P5+1, the EU and Iran two years of gruelling negotiations to reach a deal designed to address the international community's concerns about Iran's nuclear programme. At several points, negotiations nearly collapsed, owing to distrust and the inability of participants to find a compromise. But we persisted, knowing that the instability that would come from a potential conflict demanded that we exhaust all options in seeking an effective diplomatic solution. The deal is a reminder of what we can achieve when we come together to confront shared threats and engage our adversaries through robust, principled diplomacy.

Yet building on the progress made — progress that critics of the deal said the world would never see — is not guaranteed, and it is not irreversible. Rather, it continues to depend on the willingness of the Security Council, the Secretariat and each of our individual countries to do their part in implementing the resolution. Our collective security demands nothing less.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank Jeffrey Feltman, the Permanent Representative of Spain and the head of the Delegation of the European Union for their briefings.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed in Vienna and resolution 2231 (2015), which endorsed it, are a year old. At the time of their adoption, we paid tribute to an historic moment for international peace and security. After more than a decade of concern by the international community in facing the Iranian proliferation crisis, the Vienna agreement has paved the way for the re-establishment of trust in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme, thereby consolidating the non-proliferation regime.

Where are we one year after the conclusion of the agreement? The International Atomic Energy Agency has continued its verification and surveillance activities of Iran's implementation of its commitments on the nuclear component under the Vienna agreement, and it has done so without any impediment. We will continue to ensure the rigorous implementation of all nuclear provisions under the Vienna agreement, which remains a priority for us.

As required by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Iran has the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Vienna agreement has defined the framework for the development of civilian nuclear cooperation with Iran. France is committed to the implementation of the agreement in all its dimensions. That is why our two countries have held discussions on bilateral cooperation in the field of nuclear fusion, within the framework defined by the agreement.

With regard to the lifting of sanctions, I wish to emphasize that we have met all our commitments under the Vienna agreement since the 16 January 2016 implementation date. The French Government, in line with its European Union partners, has provided all the necessary information and guidance on the scope of the sanctions that have been lifted. The lifting of sanctions is already beginning to bear fruit, as the resumption of Iran's oil exports, among other examples, attest. We also understand Iran's concerns about the slowness of the effects on its economy of lifting sanctions. We have spared no effort to provide companies with the necessary clarifications on the lifting of sanctions, and will continue to do so. We call on all our partners to continue their efforts on that issue. However, I would like to point out that other factors also come into play when a business decides to invest in Iran. For the lifting of sanctions to be fully felt in the Iranian economy, it is also incumbent upon Tehran to create an environment of trust for businesses.

I now come to my final point. We are concerned about the numerous reports on Iran's non-compliance on several important provisions of resolution 2231 (2015) over the course of the past six months. That information is detailed in the Secretary-General's report (S/2016/589) just presented to us. In that regard, I thank the Secretary-General for his report, which is comprehensive, factual and balanced and lays the foundation for rigorous monitoring of the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) in the coming years. Iran's destabilizing actions are numerous. I will list just a few.

Last March, Iran launched several ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3, annex B, of resolution 2231 (2015). France, in collaboration with its European 3+1 partners, has therefore notified the Security Council. In addition, the United States and France informed the Security Council of two Iranian weapons seizures, last June and July, respectively, constituting violations of paragraph 6 (b) of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015).

Finally, we are equally concerned about information relating to travel abroad by Major General Qasem Soleimani, who is still subject to travel restrictions imposed by the Security Council, as confirmed by resolution 2231 (2015). We believe it is essential for international security and the stability of the region that Iran refrain from any destabilizing and dangerous activities.

In conclusion, I appeal to all parties to redouble their efforts for the rigorous implementation of all the provisions of the Vienna agreement and resolution 2231 (2015). The Vienna agreement and the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015) will be a singular diplomatic success if the measures of the provisions are rigorously

observed. France will ensure throughout the process that the Security Council remains quite vigilant.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank the Permanent Representative of Spain for the briefing on his work as the Security Council facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), as well as the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, who spoke about the Working Group on transfers. We also listened closely to Mr. Feltman, who presented the Secretary-General's report (S/2016/589) on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

In July 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear programme was concluded. It was a triumph for multilateral diplomacy, which has allowed us to resolve one of the most difficult questions of international relations, and to do so through peaceful means. However, that success must be anchored by the conscientious fulfilment of the JCPOA by all of the parties to the agreement. We think that, on the whole, the implementation of the JCPOA is going rather well. At this stage, all of those involved in the process need to concentrate on unswerving implementation of the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015) and of the JCPOA, which stipulates all the necessary mechanisms to be confident that Iran is keeping to its commitments.

I will be direct. The Secretary-General's report comes from outside the usual, necessary working methods. The document has a politically biased character and goes beyond the factual outlining of the course of the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). Furthermore, it contains a number of pieces of information that are not really relevant in that regard. I would like to remind the Council that when resolution 2231 (2015) was agreed it was decided that we would not set up a group of experts similar to that of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). Unfortunately, this document looks like a hapless relapse into the activities of that Group of Experts. In its current form, the report will not just facilitate the sustainable fulfilment of the JCPOA, but it also may undermine the agreements reached so far. Advocating a compact, technical and factual document, we assumed first and foremost it would work from the politically sensitive nature of the question and the fragility of the compromises reflected in the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015). We offerred corrections in the course of the preliminary discussions, and we hoped to avoid public criticism of the Secretary-General. However, our comments and our proposals were not heard. I will outline some of our main reservations.

Let us begin with the fact that the document contains simple factual errors, such as, for example, that JCPOA was never signed, as is stated in the report. According to the methodology of the selection and use of information, we think it unacceptable to include any unchecked data, which is simply being picked up by the media or received from isolated countries. In particular in those cases, when the question being considered has not yet been finished, the Secretariat should work solely on the basis of officially provided information and verified facts.

In the sections on so-called violations, they should be limited to an outline of the issue and official comments from the affected parties and references to the fact that information in these statements have yet to be checked and that the question is still under consideration. Their analysis has not yet been completed with the exclusion of missile launches. Any conclusions or recommendations on that basis are hasty, and with the absence of verified information, simply impossible. We assume that the question of including data in the report should be reviewed as part of the preparation for the next Secretary-General's report, which will come out in six months.

In the course of these discussions, we have seen interesting methodologies being used. Individual countries are making statements when references are being included in the Secretary-General's report. But why are those countries referring to a report as documentary evidence of what they have asserted? All of this would simply be funny if we were not talking about such an important issue as the implementation of the JCPOA.

Some provisions of the Secretary-General's report have no relation to his mandate nor to the terms of reference of resolution 2231 (2015) or the JCPOA. In our view, if the Secretary-General wants to outline his own point of view, then he or Mr. Feltman could always do that in the course of today's oral presentation of the report in the Security Council. May I remind the Council that, in accordance with point 7 of the Chair's notes of 16 January, recommendations, encouragements and views of the Secretary-General should be in strict conformity with his authorities and should be addressed first and foremost to the Security Council.

That is a fundamental point. I will give the Council some examples.

The mention of alleged inscriptions on the Iranian missiles simply do not coincide with the subject of the report, nor do the arguments on the impact of the launch of missiles on the situation in the Middle East. There are also questions on the recommendation of the Secretary-General regarding the preferences for some kind of form for submission of applications for the supply of materiel of nuclear and dual-use items to Iran. That is the prerogative of the Joint Committee and the Procurement Working Group.

The absence in the report of any mention of the Russian suggestion on coordination within the Security Council of a standard form for applications of arms transfers of conventional weapons to Iran under the seven categories of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms arouses genuine bewilderment. I will explain. That was an initiative of Russia put forward in the Security Council as part of an official draft note by the President. It was aimed at ensuring that States Members of the United Nations had the possibility to fully realize the potential of resolution 2231 (2015), which includes a regulatory approval system for such transfers, but does not regulate the mechanism for submission of relevant applications. But our proposal fully falls under the scope of the Secretary-General's report, as outlined by him in paragraph 3 of the introduction. A similar form for submitting applications was agreed to for transfers to Iran of nuclear and dual-use goods and was highly in demand among potential suppliers.

We regret that some partners in the Council have refused to look at that proposal — I note, without any justification for their reluctance to strictly follow the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015). We note that the opponents of that initiative have taken a course on the free interpretation of the resolution for their own political ends. That is quite contrary to the letter and spirit of the resolution, and impedes Iran from fully exercising its rights as a State Member of the United Nations to self-defence, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I would like to note that, in the course of our comments, there was also a recommendation to add to the report a reference to the possibility of cancelling of the restrictive measures ahead of schedule if the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency released a report asserting that all nuclear material on Iranian territory was being used for peaceful nuclear activities. That wish was also ignored, as was the proposal to mention, in paragraph 2 of the introduction of the report, that the beginning of practical implementation of the Joint Plan in many ways has been possible thank to the assistance offered by Russia to Iran in fulfilling the key provision of the JCPOA, namely, reaching the established limit for enriched nuclear materials of 300 kilogrammes. I mention this because the role of European Union and the United States in the implementation of the JCPOA is mentioned in every possible way — in section II of the report, moreover, in an area where the Iranian party actually has serious claims. Such a deviation is simply improper. We hope that in the next reports our comments will be taken into account.

In conclusion, I would like to mention the report of the Security Council facilitator on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). On the whole, we take a positive view of the facilitator, as we do of the work of the Permanent Representative of Spain in that capacity. Nonetheless, I would like to draw the Council's attention to a range of provisions in the report that raises some doubts.

First, the sections on weapons seizures do not reflect the scepticism of a number of Council members towards such assertions. We note with confidence that they do not set out the facts on the basis of which an impartial analysis could be conducted. In essence, we are invited to take at their word those countries that provided the reports and to share their conclusions.

Secondly, the section on the so-called 2231 list is far too verbose. We recall that the comprehensive sanctions against Iran have been repealed. It would have been possible to limit the number of physical and legal persons against whom restrictions are being maintained to a simple statistic. However, we must also note that, on the whole, the report of the facilitator is concise, factual, politically neutral and balanced. We consider that document to be a good handover for the future for the new Security Council facilitator on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) who will replace the Spanish delegation next year.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I thank the Secretary-General for his first report (S/2016/589) on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). It has been produced in challenging circumstances, but it is a strong

report that covers the full range of implementation. I also thank both briefers, and Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his excellent work as facilitator.

On 14 July 2015, after nearly two years of negotiation, the P-5+1 and Iran agreed to the historic Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. All the parties worked hard to uphold their obligations, which culminated in the implementation of the deal on 16 January after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that Iran had completed all the steps necessary to reduce its nuclear programme. We welcome the latest IAEA report, issued on 27 May, which confirms that Iran continues to comply with its nuclear commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The United Kingdom is committed to working with Iran and our E3+3 partners through the Joint Commission and the Working Groups established under the deal. That includes our role on the procurement channel established, for the export of nuclear-related goods and services to Iran. We will continue to operate transparently in that regard, while respecting the confidentiality of applications made by States Members of the United Nations.

The implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action triggered the first phase of sanctions relief, including United Nations, European Union and United States sanctions. We are committed to ensuring that this delivers tangible economic benefits for the Iranian people. We encourage businesses to take advantage of those new economic opportunities. The second phase of sanctions lifting, which will commence a maximum of eight years after implementation day, provides a further incentive for Iran. However, in the meantime those restrictions remain in place, and we are unswerving in our efforts to ensure that the sanctions that remain in place continue to be robustly enforced by all Member States.

I must be clear that we remain concerned about Iran's regional behaviour. Its continued testing of ballistic missiles that are designed to be capable of carrying nuclear weapons is destabilizing to regional security and inconsistent with resolution 2231 (2015). The United Kingdom determines that the ballistic missiles tested by the Islamic Republic of Iran are designed to deliver a payload of at least 500 kilogrammes, which is the weight of a first-generation nuclear warhead. Those missiles are designed to reach a range of at least 300 kilometres, which would qualify as a strategic strike. Therefore, in our view, they are designed to be inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons. Together with international partners, we wrote to the Security Council in March to express our concern, as ballistic missile launches have the potential to heighten regional and global tensions. It is completely unacceptable that references to Israel were reportedly written in Hebrew on a missile, and we call on Iran to refrain from such provocative actions. We urge Member States to continue to enforce the sanctions regime on ballistic missile technology, and encourage Members States to act on and report all suspected violations of those sanctions.

We are concerned that Iran continues to provide substantial military and financial support to Hizbullah and to the Syrian regime, in contravention of the United Nations embargo on the export of weapons by Iran. We are also worried about reports that an arms shipment seized in March had originated in Iran and was likely bound for Yemen. We therefore urge Member States to continue to enforce the binding restrictions in place under resolution 2231 (2015), and encourage Member States to act on and report all suspected violations of those sanctions.

The United Kingdom is committed to ensuring that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is a success. We have always been clear that, for it to work, all sides need to implement fully the provisions of the agreement and of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). For Iran to benefit from the deal, it must build the confidence of the international community, including the commercial sector, that it intends to enter into a new relationship with the international community. As a regional Power, we expect Iran to play a positive and responsible role on the significant issues facing the region. We call on all participants to redouble efforts to implement all aspects of the deal, which will build that confidence.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China thanks you, Sir, for convening today's meeting. We thank Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman, Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi and Ambassador Vale de Almeida for their briefings.

In July 2015, the Security Council adopted resolution 2231 (2015), on the Iranian nuclear issue, in which it endorsed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) concluded by the E3/EU+3 and Iran. The conclusion of the JCPOA was a success story in the settlement of an international and regional hotspot issue by political and diplomatic means. It will succeed

so long as the parties maintain their confidence in the political settlement process, demonstrate political will and make tireless efforts to that end.

The implementation of the JCPOA is a protracted process. Inevitably, there will be difficulties and challenges. The parties must continue to strive, first, to adhere to the principle of gradual and reciprocal implementation and to fully implement their commitments under the JCPOA; secondly, to keep the larger picture in mind, assiduously strengthen mutual confidence, and allow political trust to serve as the ballast for the follow-up implementation of the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015); and thirdly, to promote mutual understanding and accommodation, duly settle their differences, actively seek consensus and jointly seek progress. The JCPOA will stand only if they act accordingly.

China notes the report (S/2016/589) submitted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi. We believe that the report must reflect the implementation of the JCPOA by all parties in an objective and balanced manner. The efforts of all parties should be reflected in the report. China also notes the report recently submitted by the Joint Commission on the work of its Procurement Working Group. China will continue to participate actively in the work of the Joint Commission and the Procurement Working Group.

China has always advocated the settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue by political and diplomatic means and is committed to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime in order to maintain international peace and stability. China actively and constructively participated in the entire JCPOA negotiating process, and proposed useful plans and ideas for the deal. China is ready to work with all parties to implement the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015) in earnest and to make new contributions to the facilitation of a comprehensive, long-term and appropriate solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): I should like to begin by thanking you, Sir, for your outstanding initiative in organizing this briefing on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). I also thank the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Ambassador Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, and Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi, Permanent Representative of Spain and facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), for their briefings.

On 20 July 2015, the Security Council endorsed, through resolution 2231 (2015), the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as the culmination of 12 years of the sustained diplomatic efforts of the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany, with the participation of the European Union. They reached an historic agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue. Six months later, on 16 January 2016, following confirmation by the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran had taken all the necessary steps — in particular those stipulated in sub-paragraphs 1 to 11 of paragraph 15 of annex V of the JCPOA — and aware of the complexity involved in the harmonious implementation of the resolution, the Security Council took the precaution of appointing a facilitator for the process.

The delegation of Senegal commends the outstanding work done by our colleague, Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi, who has managed — with the generous and able assistance of the Secretariat and with his own ingenuity, rigour and transparency — to render the content of resolution 2231 (2015) more intelligible and comprehensible, thereby making it less difficult for the parties and the rest of the international community to monitor its implementation. In the letter and spirit of the note of the President of the Security Council dated 16 January 2016 (S/2016/44), Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi has successfully put in place what he himself referred to as the 2231 format, which has provided a good platform for communication, interaction and creating synergies between the different components of the network created by the Council to guarantee the implementation of the resolution.

The interface thereby created between the Security Council and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action has worked well. It has guaranteed visibility, inclusivity and transparency. There is also a dedicated website that has already been visited 70,000 times, according to the report (S/2016/589). The Member States thus have access to the necessary information to meet their obligations under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, with respect to accepting and carrying out the decisions of the Security Council, including the provisions of paragraph 7 of resolution 2231 (2015), which terminates the provisions of the previous resolutions and establishes new ones.

I can affirm that the Senegalese delegation now sees things much more clearly, with respect to both the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and the follow-up of those actions that might not be in line with the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015). The matters of supply lines, confidentiality, notification, exemptions — not to mention questions of transparency and dissemination — are more comprehensible. The updating of the list of entities and individuals concerned by the sanctions established in resolution 1737 (2006) is also relevant.

We should also welcome the fact that the mechanisms and procedures that have been in place since January have allowed for good follow-up and processing of allegations of non-compliance with the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015). This is the case even though, as indicated in the report, the facilitator has called for unity as vital among Council members in order to create the legal certainty necessary, with the political will expressed by all, to ensure that the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015) are implemented fully as long as they remain in force.

It is in that spirit that we should address the question of Iran's launch of ballistic missiles and the seizure in the Gulf of Oman of quantities of weapons that are probably destined for Somalia or Yemen. The Senegalese delegation is of the view that the stocktaking for the first six months of implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) has been positive overall. To that end, it encourages the facilitator and all other stakeholders involved in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as well as all other States Members of the United Nations, to continue in the right direction.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin by thanking Under-Secretary-General Feltman for his highly valuable briefing. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Spain, Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi, for his work as facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), and for his exhaustive report (S/2016/589), which makes mention, inter alia, of the informal Security Council meetings that were held at the expert level in this new context. I would also like to thank the Head of the Delegation of the European Union for the briefing he made on behalf of the Joint Commission.

Egypt welcomes the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), which take us one step further towards the declaration of the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, which could contribute to regional peace and security and help to diminish tension at a very crucial juncture in the Middle East, where we have seen so much conflict. In this context, Egypt commends the international relationships that led to the nuclear commitments made by the Islamic Republic of Iran in resolution 2231 (2015). We encourage Iran to continue working in this same vein.

Resolution 2231 (2015) touches not only on Iran's nuclear commitments, but also on its ballistic missile-launching activities and the transfer of conventional weapons. The Council discussed Iran's ballistic missile launches in March and was informed of the seizure of weapons cargo suspected to have been transferred from Iran in violation of resolution 2231 (2015). Such issues elicit a great deal of interest in the countries of the region as they have serious consequences for regional peace and stability.

Egypt appreciates the effort and commitment the Secretary-General has shown in the drafting of a balanced report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), which outlines these incidents. We hope that future reports will contain clear and precise recommendations to fill in any existing gaps in the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), particularly with regard to measures to control ballistic-missile launches and the transfer of nuclear weapons.

The Security Council is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. The resolutions it adopts, including resolution 2231 (2015), are one of the ways the Council expresses its will in that regard. That is why divergence in views with regard to technical aspects and the interpretation of resolution 2231 (2015) should not overly absorb the Council's attention, nor should they deter or derails the Council from its mission to ensure international peace and security.

Unquestionably, the launching of ballistic missiles by Iran, which has been mentioned in many reports on Iranian arms transfers in conflict zones in the Middle East, is fully contrary to the purposes of resolution 2231 (2015). They can only contribute to the escalation of conflict and to heightening tensions between Iran and its neighbours.

The Security Council is obliged to send a clear message to Iran and the countries of the region regarding

the key importance of regional peace and stability and the security of all members of the international community. Council members must also avoid getting caught up in the technical details and manoeuvres in the interpretation of resolutions. It must make every effort to ensure peace and stability in the Middle East, working in cooperation with the countries of the region to build bridges and confidence among parties through the complete commitment to and full implementation of the Council's goals and resolutions.

Mr. Van Bohemen (New Zealand): We thank Under-Secretary Feltman for his briefing and the Secretary-General for his report (S/2016/589). The Secretary-General had a difficult task on a sensitive topic. In our view, he has presented a balanced report that provides a useful overview of developments since the adoption and implementation of the agreement negotiated between Iran, the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the European Union. We also thank Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for briefing the Council in his capacity as facilitator of resolution 2231 (2015), as well as Ambassador Vale de Almeida for his briefing on behalf of the Joint Commission.

We welcome a key message in the Secretary-General's report that is also reflected in recent reporting by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran is honouring its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). This is vital to building further trust between Iran and the international community.

New Zealand appreciates the efforts of all parties to uphold the spirit of the agreement as well as the letter. It was this spirit of constructive engagement — a success of diplomacy and cooperation over confrontation and mistrust — that enabled agreement in the first place. As we said when the agreement was endorsed by the Council in resolution 2231 (2015) under our presidency, in July 2015, we hope that Iran will seize this opportunity to reset its relationships with the international community and play a more constructive role in its region. That is urgently needed.

At a time of increasing instability and conflict, the need for cooperative regional engagement could not be more critical. In this regard, reports of conventional arms transfers to Yemen are of particular concern. Such transfers are unhelpful to Yemen's stability and further undermine efforts being made by the Council and others to secure peace for that country. Provocative actions, such as the Iranian launch of ballistic missiles in March, also risk further inflaming regional tensions. While we recognize Iran's right to provide for its self-defence, its leaders cannot pretend that the intemperate indeed ridiculous actions of the Revolutionary Guards are not their responsibility.

The Secretary-General's regular reporting to the Council is a vital tool for keeping the process on track. We look forward to the Council receiving this further analysis of how the resolution's implementation is faring.

If the JCPOA is to be sustainable, all sides must live up to their commitments. Iran must act responsibly. It also has the right to the full benefits of the agreement, including economic benefits. The responsibility for achieving this is a shared one, not just for the parties that negotiated the JCPOA but for the international community, whose support was represented in the resolution adopted by the Council.

For its part, the New Zealand Government is engaging with our banking sector and others to strengthen our commercial ties with Iran. Reciprocal visits by the Foreign Minister of New Zealand and Iran have reinforced progress in our bilateral relationship. We look forward to building on this progress in the year ahead.

It has taken longer than we all expected for the private sector to re-engage with Iran. The complex terms of the JCPOA have been difficult to navigate, particularly for those who were not involved in the negotiations. We appreciate the efforts taken by the parties to share information and clarify expectations with the private sector, and we encourage this to continue. We also appreciate outreach efforts under the 2231 (2015) format so that members can better understand and fulfil their own obligations.

We all have an interest in the long-term viability of the agreement and in ensuring the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We recognize that the international community must maintain its vigilance to ensure that this historic agreement is fully and properly implemented. We must also now capitalize fully on the opportunity to promote trust and cooperation between Iran and the international community.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): I thank the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representative of Spain, Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi, acting in his capacity

as facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), for providing comprehensive and substantial reports, which contribute to raising general awareness on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and on the resolution itself. He has clearly explained key tasks and interactions within new mechanism and structures established pursuant to the resolution and has given a detailed presentation of the work conducted in this area during the last six months.

We highly commend the dedicated efforts of the United Nations Secretariat, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Facilitator's team aimed at full and proper implementation of the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015), which inaugurated a new stage with regard not only to the Iranian nuclear issue but also to the non-proliferation regime in general.

Before going directly into the subject of today's meeting, let me note that yesterday — 17 July — marked the second anniversary of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17 in the Donetsk oblast of Ukraine. We reiterate our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of victims and to all grieving nations. Let me recall the demand of the Security Council that

> "those responsible for this incident be held to account and that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability" (*resolution 2166 (2014), para. 11*).

A more detailed press statement was distributed yesterday by the Permanent Missions of the States participating in the joint investigation.

As a country that demonstrated a proactive approach and set an example for others to follow by abandoning its nuclear capability and acceding to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Ukraine remains a strong advocate of the NPT and emphasizes the need for all States parties to that instrument to comply fully with their relevant obligations.

Recalling the right of States parties, in conformity with articles I and II of the NPT, to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, Ukraine highly commends the comprehensive, long-term and proper solution to the Iranian nuclear issue that culminated in the JCPOA. Up until now, we have witnessed positive developments in the implementation of that crucial document. Ukraine welcomes IAEA reports that prove Iran's intention to use nuclear material and technologies exclusively for peaceful purposes.

At the same time, while recognizing the inalienable right of every State to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, we share the concerns about the launches of ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, as mentioned in the reports, as well as incidents of seizures of conventional arms that were likely bound for conflict zones, without the necessary authorization of the Security Council. Those particular cases run counter to the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015).

Ukraine acts in accordance with the importance of diligently implementing both the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015). It is essential that all the States engaged in the process interact constructively to resolve outstanding issues for the sake of this hard-won non-proliferation deal, the proper implementation of which would be a key contribution to regional and global security and stability. In that regard, we call on all the parties to ensure that the concerns raised in the reports of the Secretary-General and the Facilitator do not serve to lay the groundwork for further disputes, but rather that they be duly considered and resolved through negotiations.

Proceeding from what I have said here, and taking into account the current tense situation in the region, we also stress the importance of refraining from aggressive and war-like rhetoric, for the sake of the progress achieved on this track.

To conclude my remarks, I wish to reiterate the importance of a united Council stance when dealing with this sensitive issue, as well as our intention to ensure the further implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

Mr. Lucas (Angola): We thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's meeting on this exceedingly critical international issue. We thank Under-Secretary-General Jeffrey Feltman for his briefing on the report (S/2016/589) of the Secretary-General. We also thank Ambassador João Pedro Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, for his briefing on the activities of the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission. And we thank Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Permanent Representative of Spain, for the briefing he made in his capacity as Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

The agreement reached with Iran on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), after years of complex and very difficult negotiations, was swiftly followed by the unanimous adoption by the Security Council one year ago of resolution 2231 (2015), endorsing the JCPOA, which came into effect three months later on adoption day on 18 October 2015. Furthermore, the submission by the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of a report confirming that Iran had taken the actions specified in the JCPOA brought the agreement to the landmark implementation day and the lifting of sanctions against Iran. From then on, concerted efforts by Iran and the international community have been made that will hopefully lead, in the long-term, to the adoption of a draft resolution on termination day, in which the IAEA Director-General will declare the broader conclusion according to which all nuclear material in Iran is exclusively used for peaceful purposes — hopefully at a time by which Iran will be fully integrated into the international community and able to make a meaningful contribution to international peace and security, given its importance as a regional and international player.

The conclusion of the JCPOA was a decisive step forward in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and a demonstration that, with a spirit of compromise and political will, the most difficult issues in international relations could be the subject of a peaceful, diplomatic solution. The JCPOA was also a ground-breaking development in the Middle East, where diplomacy had been unable to score any gains since the peace treaties concluded between Egypt and Jordan with Israel many years ago.

The JCPOA prompted a fundamental shift in the Iranian nuclear programme. Its conclusion and implementation confirms how the international community and Iran are willing to forge a new relationship based on mutual respect and cooperation. It is our expectation that the smooth implementation of the JCPOA — confirming the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme — will contribute to building trust and deepening expert cooperation in all areas, including on issues pertaining to peace and security in the Middle East.

In the past six months since implementation day and the issuance of a note by the President of the Security Council setting forth arrangements and procedures for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), concrete steps have been taken in structuring a framework for the resolution's implementation, through the establishment of a channel for communication between members of the Council and the Joint Commission; in the establishment of operational linkages with the Procurement Working Group; in building discussions with representatives of the Security Council; and in setting up a website for those interested in the implementation of the resolution.

We have taken due note of the transparency, outreach and guidance measures developed by the Facilitator and the Secretariat with a view to improving the implementation of the resolution and its understanding, mainly concerning procedures related to the submission of proposals to the Council, which retains the central role in reviewing and deciding on procurement and supplying of nuclear-related transfers and other activities.

We deem it absolutely essential that the JCPOA be rigorously implemented. To that end, the strengthening of mutual trust is a fundamental prerequisite, by keeping dialogue and diplomatic channels permanently open in a spirit of goodwill to resolve all contentious issues arising from the agreement's implementation and by guaranteeing that the Iranian nuclear programme remains exclusively for peaceful purposes, an outcome that would benefit nuclear non-proliferation worldwide.

We fully concur with the Facilitator's recommendation that the Security Council must ensure that the JCPOA, as stated in resolution 2231 (2015), be conducive to promoting and facilitating the development of normal economic and trade contacts and cooperation with Iran. We call on the JCPOA signatories to do their utmost to deepen political and diplomatic cooperation towards appropriate solutions to the conflicts in the Middle East — in Syria, Iraq and Yemen — and to establish real unity of purpose in the fight against terrorism. Iran is a great regional Power whose cooperation is key for the attainment of solutions to the conflicts in the region. We firmly believe that, if unlocked, a new chapter in the relations between Western Powers and Iran could provide bright prospects for peace and security in the entire region.

Finally, we appeal to the Iranian authorities to continue implementing the JCPOA provisions with the same rigour and in good faith, and to persevere in strengthening trust with its partners, thereby contributing to the economic and social development of the country and the easing of tensions in the region.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Jeffrey Feltman,

Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, in his capacity as facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015); and Mr. João Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, for their briefings.

Uruguay, as a non-nuclear-weapon State; a State member of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone, established under the Treaty of Tlatelolco; a State member of the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone; and as State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, is strongly committed to strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The Government of Uruguay welcomed the International Atomic Energy Agency's report indicating that Iran had fulfilled all its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, endorsed on 14 July 2015 in Vienna by the P5+1 countries — China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States — and the Islamic Republic of Iran, concerning the Iranian nuclear programme.

Implementation day reached after more than two years of intensive diplomatic efforts, was a historic landmark in multilateral diplomacy towards non-proliferation. It contributed greatly to international peace, security and stability, and eliminated one of the main hotbeds of tension in the Middle East. In recent weeks, the parties have expressed differences regarding some aspects of the text of resolution 2231 (2015), which understandably diverges from language previously used in resolution 1929 (2010). We call on the parties directly involved to step up their talks to resolve these differences, in the same spirit of cooperation and commitment they showed in the long negotiation process to reach resolution 2231 (2015), and thereby avoid undermining the historic agreement.

Finally, Uruguay echoes the words of the Secretary-General in his report (S/2016/589), in which he urges us to keep the momentum sparked by the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, in line with its constructive spirit.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like at the outset to thank Mr. Jeffrey Feltman for introducing the Secretary-General's report (S/2016/589). I also thank Ambassador Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations; and especially Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, in his capacity as facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), for his efforts in addressing this sensitive topic.

One year after the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), establishing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed by the United States, the Russian Federation, China, France, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Germany and the Islamic Republic of Iran, we commend and welcome the progress made in the implementation of the resolution, the fruit of extraordinary diplomatic efforts to achieve a broad, long-term and appropriate resolution to the Iranian nuclear issue. It was a political commitment among the parties that must be recognized because it represents an exceptional means of resolving conflicts that threaten world peace.

The outcome underscores the importance of political and diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful resolution to this dispute, in line with Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, showing that when parties are committed to one another, peace and dialogue trump the contentious rhetoric that breeds mistrust. The implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and its strict enforcement ensure that the Islamic Republic of Iran can exercise its sovereign right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Similarly, its implementation has contributed to establishing a climate conducive to dialogue and understanding between Iran and the States parties to the agreement, based on mutual trust and respect, and a joint commitment to strengthening international peace and security.

As for the Secretary-General's report (S/2016/589) on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), which was introduced today, my delegation believes that it should reflect a fundamental change in the way we address this issue, based on the parties' willingness to establish a new relationship with Iran through the application of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. In the same vein, we believe that this first report should have been guided by the principles of impartiality and objectivity in order to avoid the introduction of controversial elements that could lead to an imbalanced treatment of the issues, in consideration of the information submitted by the parties and Iran's compliance with its commitments under the Plan of

Action, which has been verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency in its report.

In like manner, any presentation of cases of supposed non-compliance on the part of the parties must be based on reliable, duly verified research in order to ensure a clear understanding of the facts. We must prevent future reports from containing elements that are characteristic of a sanctions committee. The mechanism that was established through the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015) should facilitate the implementation process — a goal to which we should all be committed.

We also believe that elements that go beyond the scope of resolution 2231 (2015) should not be included in the reports. Aspects of the Secretary-General's report that require clarification should not be used for political ends to undermine the climate of trust that has been coalescing following the adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The Islamic Republic of Iran has reaffirmed its commitment to fulfilling its obligations in the framework of its agreements with all parties to the process. Likewise, we must bear in mind that Iran has been working constructively with other countries to reach negotiated political solutions to the serious conflicts that afflict the troubled region of the Middle East, which is an important step towards building trust among the parties.

Despite the progress made in the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and the commitments and agreements on the definitive lifting of the sanctions regime imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as other unilateral coercive measures taken illegally in other arenas regarding Iran's nuclear programme, we encourage the parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to act prudently to put an end to all unilateral measures that continue to affect the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also encourage parties to refrain from adopting any policy that would negatively affect the normalization of economic and trade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and thereby undermine the effective implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

We should take advantage of this historic political momentum and the positive dynamic between P5+1 and Iran in order to focus on resolving differences through dialogue and negotiation. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is a model for success that could be replicated in addressing, by political and diplomatic means, other regional and international issues affecting international peace and security, such as the search for common positions among countries of the region and the Council that would allow us to tackle the crises that affect that important geographic zone, inter alia, the Palestinian issue, the conflicts in Syria and Yemen, and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. We also remain hopeful that this important step taken by Iran and the other parties to the agreement will help other countries of the region to refrain from engaging in a nuclear arms race. We believe that the international community should focus and demonstrate the political will to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East, in accordance with the decisions adopted during the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and reiterated at subsequent conferences.

Finally, we reiterate our full support for the implementation of this historic process in order to ensure the well-being and progress of the Iranian people, as well as to ease the tensions and contribute to stability in the Middle East. We therefore urge the parties to fulfil the agreement reached on the basis of good faith and mutual respect and to avoid any action that would jeopardize its effective implementation. All parties should avoid inflammatory rhetoric and confrontation and refrain from actions or acts of provocation that affect the atmosphere of détente necessary to continue implementing the agreement. The progress achieved in fulfilling the agreement shows once again that, when there is political will among the parties and respect for legitimate mutual interests, the international community can resolve the conflicts and crises that affect international peace and security.

Mr. Ibrahim (Malaysia): I thank Under-Secretary-General Feltman for his briefing on the Secretary-General's report (S/2016/589), Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his briefing in his capacity as facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), and Ambassador Vale de Almeida for his briefing on behalf of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the report of the Procurement Working Group.

We welcome the two quarterly reports issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) — in March and June, respectively — on the verification and monitoring activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Malaysia appreciates the IAEA's efforts to continue verifying the non-diversion of declared nuclear material by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement.

Malaysia believes that the centrality of the JCPOA must continue to underpin the Council's approach, and by extension, the international community's approach towards Iran.

Given the historical significance of the Iranian nuclear agreement for the non-proliferation agenda, the value of remaining steadfast in the implementation of the provisions outlined in resolution 2231 (2015) cannot be understated, so as to do justice to the diplomatic efforts of all parties involved in ensuring the success of the JCPOA. Hence, we welcome the crucial set-up of the 2231 (2015) format meeting and the procurement channel and commend the facilitator's stewardship of 2231 (2015) format meetings, as well as the Secretariat's facilitation to provide coordination between the Council and the Joint Commission of the JCPOA.

While we understand the concerns that have been voiced with regard to the Islamic Republic of Iran's progress on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), we believe that the shared concerns raised about the complexities of the technicalities of the resolution are best addressed through active engagement with Iran.

On the Secretary-General's report, Malaysia calls on all parties to continue working constructively together in good faith in order to make significant progress on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). We are encouraged by the approach of transparency, outreach and practical guidance, anchored by the facilitator in that regard, to ensure that the main provisions and implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) are well understood. This is pertinent particularly given the high interest in the implementation of the resolution on transfers and activities as provided for in paragraph 2 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015).

In an effort to further remove ambiguity and lend transparency to the implementation of the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015), Malaysia welcomes the recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report, particularly on the need to clarify the application of paragraph 6 (b) to all supply, sale or transfer regardless of change, following the participation of Iranian entities in the fifth Iraq Defence Exhibition, held in Baghdad in March. Notwithstanding, the obligations of all Member States to fully implement all the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015) must not be understated.

As we proceed henceforth, Malaysia urges balance, prudence and collective engagement in the Council's work on facilitating the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). We reaffirm our commitment to work constructively with other Council members, being fully mindful of the need to preserve the Council's unity in the process. We reassert that collective cooperation and continuous engagement by all stakeholders are indispensable to the success of the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). We wish to also commend the Secretariat's work, particularly in support of the facilitator.

Malaysia continues to uphold its belief in the importance of striking a balance in our discussions on the nuclear non-proliferation agenda, particularly on the nuclear disarmament side. The divisiveness of discussions on the nuclear disarmament agenda remains a cause of concern for all of us, particularly for the non-nuclear-weapon States. We therefore urge renewed commitment and action, particularly by the nuclear-weapon States, to provide a fresh impetus and reinvigorate discussions on this agenda, in a collective effort by all the parties concerned to achieve the aim of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Before I conclude, I wish to join the Permanent Representative of Ukraine in his statement that yesterday marks the second anniversary of the downing of Malysia Airlines Flight MH-17. I wish to add that we will continue to seek satisfactory explanations for the event that led to the tragedy and strive for justice through the avenues of international law.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Japan.

At the outset I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Jeffrey Feltman; Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, representing the Joint Commission established by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA); and Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, facilitator of resolution 2231 (2015), for their detailed briefings on this important topic.

The historic agreement on the JCPOA was achieved one year ago through earnest negotiations by members of the international community after years of sanctions. The successful conclusion of the negotiations on JCPOA demonstrates that the right combination of pressure and dialogue can move a country to accept a good agreement on an important and difficult issue.

The JCPOA must be fully implemented in order to strengthen the international non-proliferation regime. We highly value and support the role that the

International Atomic Energy Agency is playing in that regard. The goal is to make sure that nuclear energy is used exclusively for peaceful purposes in Iran. Japan will continue to provide assistance in the field of nuclear safety, among others, in order to contribute to ensuring the implementation of the JCPOA.

Another expected result of this historic agreement is the integration of Iran into the international community and the global economy. On 16 January, we welcomed the advent of the implementation day of the JCPOA. In line with resolution 2231 (2015), States Members of the United Nations have removed measures that had been applied based on previous Security Council resolutions.

The full implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) by Iran and the international community will strengthen a relationship of trust among Iran and its neighbours, thereby contributing to peace and security in the Middle East. As a long-standing friend with historic ties to Iran, Japan believes that Iran can play an important and constructive role in such difficult issues as Syria and Yemen. In that regard, we view Iran's ballistic-missile launch test in March as unconducive to the stability of the region. We clearly informed Iran that such actions ran counter to our expectations.

Last week, the members to the JCPOA celebrated the first anniversary of this historic agreement and stated that the JCPOA was being implemented. Mindful that resolution 2231 (2015) is expected to remain in force until October 2025, we are reminded that we are currently taking only the first steps in a long process. I would like to conclude by urging Iran, the JCPOA members, the Security Council and the States Members of the United Nations to continue to work together to ensure that this historic agreement is fully implemented to the end.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Braun (Germany): The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), agreed in Vienna one year ago, and the subsequent resolution 2231 (2015), which endorsed the Vienna agreement, were indeed historic achievements. Since then, considerable progress has been made towards the implementation of the agreed provisions. On 16 January, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that Iran had fulfilled its obligations under the JCPOA. Since that implementation day, two subsequent IAEA reports have indicated Iran's compliance with its commitments.

Today, Germany would like to thank the Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General Feltman for the first biannual report (S/2016/589) on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). I would also like to thank Security Council member Spain and Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi for his interesting briefing, and European Union Ambassador Vale de Almeida for his very relevant briefing. Please allow me to highlight three points.

First, Germany welcomes the close cooperation between Iran and the IAEA, which has repeatedly confirmed the implementation of Iran's nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. Monitoring, verification and reporting are essential to ensuring the full implementation of the Vienna agreement. We will continue to support the IAEA in fulfilling its mandate. With regard to the work of the Security Council, Germany welcomes the establishment of the operational linkages between the Council and the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission as a crucial step towards ensuring the functioning of the procurement channel.

Secondly, in line with the Secretary-General's report, Germany is deeply concerned about the ballistic-missile tests conducted by Iran in March. We regard them as inconsistent with resolution 2231 (2015). Germany also notes with concern all further incidents listed in the report. We call on Iran to refrain from any action that could give rise to mutual mistrust. And we call upon Iran to play a constructive role in resolving regional conflicts, as a responsible member of the international community.

Thirdly, Germany reaffirms its commitment to further developing and intensifying relations with Iran. We continue to pursue the goal of a full re-engagement of German and European banks and businesses in Iran. Together with the European Union, France and the United Kingdom, we have been actively ensuring the full implementation of the JCPOA. To that end, we deem it important that Iran make further efforts to improve economic and fiscal policy, create a reliable business environment and fully implement the rule of law. We stand ready to provide further support if needed. From a German perspective, exports are door-openers for investments, and therefore for development. We are

particularly glad to be again in a position to use export credits to facilitate trade with Iran.

In conclusion, the Vienna agreement and resolution 2231 (2015) have ended the decade-long conflict surrounding Iran's nuclear programme. They are a victory for diplomacy and for the principles of the United Nations, and Germany is proud to have been, and to remain, one of the parties to the agreement. It will now be crucial to effectively implement the agreement, as well as resolution 2231 (2015), in all its aspects. We are confident that all partners of the Vienna agreement are on the right path towards that common objective.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.