

Information Circular

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Communication from the Resident Representative of the Russian Federation to the IAEA

1. The Secretariat has received a communication dated 14 July 2020 from the Resident Representative of the Russian Federation to the Agency.
2. At the request of the Resident Representative, the communication and its attachment are circulated herewith for information of all Member States.

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA

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Vienna, 14 July 2020

Sir,

I have the honour to forward a copy of the statement by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 14 July 2020 on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to resolve issues regarding the Iranian nuclear programme. In view of the important role played by the Agency in supporting and sustainably implementing the JCPOA, I would like to request that you circulate this statement as an IAEA Information Circular.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Mikhail Ulyanov
Ambassador
Resident Representative

Mr Rafael Grossi
DIRECTOR GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY
Vienna

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation**

Statement by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to resolve issues regarding the Iranian nuclear programme

14 July 2020

Five years ago, on 14 July 2015, the foreign ministers of China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Iran, Russia and the United States of America, with the participation of the European Union, reached an agreement for the resolution of the situation surrounding the Iranian nuclear programme that was unique in its scope and significance.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), imbued with the united political will of the countries involved in its drafting and endorsed by UN Security Council resolution 2231, was a major achievement in multilateral diplomacy. It demonstrated that the advantages and effectiveness of negotiated solutions made them superior to approaches based on threats, pressure and brute force.

The success of the JCPOA was made possible by the fact that the parties involved in the negotiations were able to find a common language, hear and understand each other's concerns and, most importantly, find a formula for resolving one of the most complex and long-standing conflicts involving issues of nuclear non-proliferation, while relying on international law and universally recognized instruments.

In a relatively short period of time, the JCPOA yielded comprehensive answers to the questions that the IAEA had at that time concerning the Iranian nuclear programme, providing an unprecedented level of transparency about that programme.

Today, there is no country undergoing more thorough verification by the IAEA than Iran.

Contrary to speculation heard repeatedly in the West, the aim of the JCPOA was never to call into question or restrict Tehran's legitimate right, enshrined in Article IV of the NPT, to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. On the contrary, the agreement on the plan paved the way for the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation with Iran in the nuclear power sector and in other areas of economic, commercial, scientific and technical interest.

The key point, however — on which opponents and critics of the JCPOA prefer to keep silent — is that the deal was worked out on an equal footing and relies on a carefully calibrated balance of interests and reciprocal obligations. None of the parties to the JCPOA were 'the losers'; in fact, it was a win for the whole world.

Now, five years later, it must be acknowledged that, throughout the process, implementation of the JCPOA has demanded enormous patience and perseverance from those involved. The root cause of the numerous difficulties and challenges that have arisen in implementing the deal is the unilateral renunciation by the United States of its obligations and its numerous gross violations of UN Security Council resolution 2231.

The 'maximum pressure' policy adopted by Washington, under which it chose to use sanctions to attack both Iran and the JCPOA, is short-sighted and wrong. This policy discredits the United States and sets it in opposition to the rest of the world, which strongly advocates strict implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council and consistent, full implementation of the JCPOA in line with the goals and criteria that were originally agreed upon. A country that is one of the main co-

authors of a monumental agreement, and of the UN Security Council resolution cited above, for two years now has refused to implement them and has obstinately prevented others from doing so, thereby undermining its reputation as a reliable negotiating partner and a responsible actor in international relations.

The current administration in Washington must understand that the US has and will continue to have obligations to the rest of the world which it is required to meet. Such are the principles of coexistence in a world that is based on universally recognized norms of international law, and not on rules that someone is trying to write and rewrite to suit himself at the expense of others.

Delays and challenges in the implementation of the JCPOA do not detract from its achievements. The formula for a resolution laid down in the plan has not lost its relevance. As was the case five years ago, the world does not have a more reliable or effective option, if the goal is implementing the resolutions agreed upon in the UN Security Council, rather than settling accounts. There is still a chance that the JCPOA can be put back and kept on track. Russia intends to make every effort to achieve this by encouraging the partners to engage in substantive efforts to find ways to de-escalate tensions and protect the JCPOA from US attacks.

The opponents of the JCPOA have nothing to offer to replace it. Their agenda is purely destructive. In order to satisfy their own ambitions and false sense of exceptionalism, they are prepared to engage in reckless behaviour of any kind, including ripping up agreements, stirring up military and political tensions in the Middle East and provoking a crisis in the UN Security Council, while attempting amidst the commotion to improve their election prospects. This is a road to nowhere. The JCPOA was designed to prevent the use of military force and avert the threat of war that was looming over the Persian Gulf region.

There is still no alternative to it.

We call on all JCPOA partners and all other member States of the United Nations to demonstrate political will and stand up in defence of the plan. The UN Member States cannot afford today to get this wrong.