



Security Council briefing on JCPOA/2231, 17 December 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President. I shall now deliver a statement in my national capacity.

I begin by thanking Under Secretary-General DiCarlo and Ambassador Lambrinidis for their briefings.

We welcome the Secretary-General's eighteenth report on the implementation of Resolution 2231, as well as the Joint Commission's report on the status of the procurement Working Group's decisions. We have taken note of both reports.

The JCPOA, along with its endorsement in resolution 2231, has represented a great diplomatic achievement and a crucial instrument for non-proliferation efforts. However, over the past two years, the environment around the JCPOA, including regional dynamics, deeply deteriorated, with detrimental impacts on its implementation.



During its time on the Council, Malta has tried to facilitate all efforts towards dialogue aimed at the full implementation of resolution 2231. Regrettably, efforts have been unsuccessful in ensuring renewed compliance with the JCPOA commitments, including a full return to its implementation by all parties.

Nevertheless, we remain deeply committed to a diplomatic solution to the Iran nuclear issue, in line with the objectives and the spirit of the JCPOA. We will continue to support all initiatives in this regard.

To this end, we echo the Secretary-General's call on all parties to prioritise diplomacy. This is the only pathway to ensure a stable and peaceful resolution of this issue.

President



In its most recent reports, the International Atomic Energy Agency has painted a worrying picture of the situation. It noted that Iran has continued to increase its stockpile of enriched Uranium, including Uranium enriched to 60%, reaching now what the Agency calls ‘four significant quantities’. In the latest ad hoc report, the Agency also stated that Iran has further increased its production capacity.

Furthermore, the Agency’s monitoring and verification activities have been seriously affected due to Iran’s non-compliance with the JCPOA, including its removal of surveillance and monitoring equipment. This resulted in a loss of continuity of knowledge for the Agency and hindered its ability to provide assurances on the peaceful nature of the nuclear programme.

We take note of Iran’s decision to consider the re-appointment of four designated experts, which was welcomed by the IAEA Director-General. At the same time, we reiterate our concerns for its previous decision to withdraw the designation of several experts. The full reversal of this decision is essential to allow the Agency to conduct its verification activities effectively.



Once again, we commend the professional work carried out by the IAEA. Its verification and monitoring activities are indispensable, and it can count on Malta's full support.

In closing, President, I reiterate our support for a diplomatic solution to restore the objectives of the JCPOA.

I also thank all Council members for their engagement and for entrusting us with this role. I call on them to continue to work constructively on this file, and wish our successor all the best for a fruitful term..

I thank you.