



In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

No. 2539986

25 June 2025

Excellency,

Further to our previous letters dated 13, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 23 June 2025, (S/2025/379-S/2025/387-S/2025/388-S/2025/391-S/2025/401-S/2025/404-S/2025/410), I am writing to categorically reject and strongly denounce the assertions made by the representative of the United States during the Security Council meeting on 24 June 2025 under the agenda item “Non-Proliferation” (9994th meeting). The U.S. representative cynically attempted to justify the illegal use of force by the United States against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran—specifically its deliberate and unprovoked attack on Iran’s peaceful nuclear facilities on 21 June—as an act of self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter. She further stated that “nothing in the IAEA Statute prevents states from taking legitimate steps for their own or collective self-defense.” In this regard, I wish to draw your attention, and that of the Security Council’s members, to the following:

1. The United States’ justification is legally unfounded and a blatant distortion of international law and the UN Charter. The unlawful use of force against Iran’s peaceful nuclear facilities—which are fully safeguarded by the IAEA and whose peaceful character has been repeatedly confirmed—cannot under any circumstances be characterized as a “right of self-defense” under Article 51. This arbitrary and self-serving misinterpretation of Article 51 is fundamentally inconsistent with the UN Charter, international law, and the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice. If normalized, this illegal claim would seriously erode one of the most fundamental principles of the Charter—the prohibition on the use of force. As affirmed in General Assembly Resolution 3314, any preventive use of force in the absence of an actual armed attack is a clear act of aggression. According to established legal doctrine and the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice—particularly in the 1986 Nicaragua case (Nicaragua v. United States of America) and 2003 Oil Platforms case (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)—the right of self-defense can only be invoked in response to an armed attack and may only be invoked when the conditions of necessity and proportionality are fully met.
2. The United States and the Israeli regime invoked the alleged nuclear threat posed by Iran as a pretext for their acts of aggression, which lack any credible legal or factual foundation. The latest report of the IAEA Director General does not substantiate any breach by Iran of its safeguards obligations, nor does it document any diversion of nuclear material. The



Agency's report unequivocally confirms that there is no evidence of a nuclear weapons development program in Iran. Even the United States' own intelligence community has acknowledged this fact. Therefore, the invocation of a so-called "imminent threat" lacks any legal basis in international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, as reaffirmed by UN Security Resolution 487 (1981), the Security Council explicitly condemned attacks on nuclear facilities as violations of the UN Charter. Likewise, multiple resolutions of the IAEA General Conference—including GC(XXIX)/RES/444 and GC(XXXIV)/RES/533—have unequivocally reaffirmed that any armed attack or threat of attack against nuclear sites and facilities devoted to peaceful purposes constitutes a serious breach of international law and undermines the very relevance of the IAEA and the credibility of its verification and monitoring regime. Accordingly, what is the purpose of safeguards if illegal, unilateral uses of force can simply replace the protections offered by the IAEA?

3. Security Council Resolution 487 (1981), which was adopted unanimously on 19 June 1981 in response to Israel's bombing of Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor, inter alia, "strongly condemns the military attack by Israel in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international conduct," and "calls upon Israel to refrain in the future from any such acts or threats thereof." It further requested "the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council regularly informed of the implementation of the present resolution." By deliberately attacking Iran's safeguarded, peaceful nuclear sites and facilities, the United States, as a permanent member of the Security Council, entrusted with the primary responsibility of the maintenance of international peace and security, has blatantly violated the very resolution it endorsed, and in doing so, undermined the authority and credibility of the Security Council.
4. The unlawful use of force and unprovoked armed attacks by the Israeli regime on 13 June 2025, followed by the United States, a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a depository of the NPT, on 21 June 2025, on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, under the guise of self-defense, set a profoundly dangerous precedent that directly and gravely undermined the authority of the NPT, inflicted a severe and irreparable threat to the credibility and integrity of the entire non-proliferation regime as a whole and posed a serious threat to international peace and security.

In light of these serious breaches and their dangerous implications, the U.S.' invocation of Article 51 of the UN Charter on the right to self-defense to justify the acts of aggression committed by the U.S. and Israel must be explicitly and unequivocally rejected and condemned.



Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its call on members of the Security Council to:

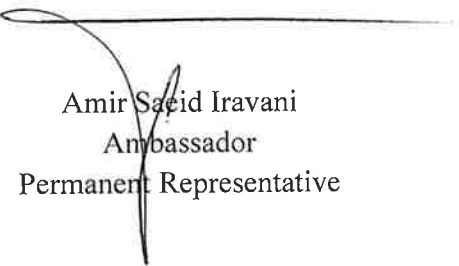
1. Explicitly and unequivocally reject the U.S.' and Israeli claim of "preemptive self-defense," which has no legal basis but is a self-serving and arbitrary misinterpretation and distortion of Article 51 of the UN Charter and is contrary to international law;
2. Condemn in the strongest possible terms the unlawful use of force against the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran, including its safeguarded, peaceful nuclear facilities, by the Israeli regime and the United States, as a flagrant violation of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, international law, UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) and Resolution 487 (1981), the IAEA statute, and relevant IAEA General Conference Resolutions.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also reiterates its call on the Secretary-General to:

1. Submit a report to the Security Council and the wider membership on the status of implementation of operative paragraph 2 of Resolution 487 (1981), particularly in relation to the Israeli regime's violations and targeting of peaceful nuclear sites and facilities under the safeguards of the IAEA.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Amir Sa'ed Iravani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations, New York

H.E. Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett
President of the Security Council
United Nations, New York