



**Permanent Mission of the People's  
Republic of China to the UN**

**Permanent Mission of the  
Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN**

**Permanent Mission of the  
Russian Federation to the UN**

No. 2735349

1 December 2025

**Excellencies,**

We write in response to the joint letter dated 20 November 2025 from the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (“the E3”), and wish to recall the joint letter by the Foreign Ministers of the People’s Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation circulated on 2 September 2025 (A/79/1004–S/2025/546), which explicitly set out our positions in regard to the “snapback” mechanism as follows:

“...At the inception of the JCPOA, when the ‘snapback’ mechanism was established, it could hardly be foreseen that the U.S. would be the first to break its obligations. The U.S. decision in May 2018 to unilaterally withdraw from the JCPOA and undermine the resolution fundamentally affected the modalities of triggering the ‘snapback’ mechanism that can no longer be used in relation to Iran without properly addressing and resolving in advance the U.S. significant non-performance.

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

In contrast, Iran’s remedial measures, including its suspension of implementation of the JCPOA commitments, were taken strictly in response to the U.S. withdrawal and violation of all its commitments and after an extended period of Iran’s continued compliance and the E3/EU’s inaction in redressing the situation. Reciprocal steps taken by Iran cannot serve as a basis for triggering the ‘snapback’ mechanism. It is unacceptable that this mechanism is misused to reward the U.S. withdrawal and the subsequent E3/EU failure



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to uphold their obligations, including those that were set forth in the statement following the May 25, 2018, meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission.

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

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

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

Therefore, we reaffirm that the attempt by E3 to trigger the so-called “snapback” is, by default, legally and procedurally flawed, and the claims made by E3 in their above-mentioned letter are irrelevant and unfounded.

Against this backdrop, we reaffirm that in accordance with operative paragraph 8 of UNSCR 2231, all its provisions have been terminated after 18 October 2025. We reiterate that the full and timely conclusion of UNSCR 2231 marks the end of the Security Council’s consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue and contributes to strengthening the authority of the Council and credibility of multilateral diplomacy.



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**Excellencies,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran, the People's Republic of China, and the Russian Federation remain fully committed to constructive diplomatic engagement with all Council members. We stand ready to support collective efforts to uphold the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We emphasize that it is essential for all relevant parties to stay committed to finding a political settlement that accommodates the concerns of all parties through diplomatic engagement and dialogue based on the principles of mutual respect, and refrain from unilateral sanctions, threat of force, or any other action that may escalate the situation, and that all countries should contribute to creating a favorable atmosphere and conditions for diplomatic efforts.

We would appreciate it if the present letter could be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

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