

JCPOA and resolution 2231

Joint statement by Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Poland and the UK

19 December 2019

We, as the current and future European Union members of the Council, believe it is more important than ever to preserve the JCPOA and implement UN Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) in full. We have however entered a challenging time in this regard. The latest steps taken by Iran are very worrying and carry increasingly serious non-proliferation implications.

The JCPOA is fundamental to regional and international peace and security. Fulfilment of all nuclear-related commitments under the NPT as well as the JCPOA remains fundamental to guarantee the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program. We welcome the unity of the JCPOA participants on the importance of the full and effective implementation of the JCPOA by all sides and their determination to continue all efforts to preserve the agreement, which is in the interests of all.

As set out in the latest report of the UN Secretary General, it is essential that intense diplomatic efforts continue and hard-won achievements are preserved and built upon. In this regard, we regret that the United States – further to its withdrawal from the JCPOA on 8 May 2018 – has re-imposed all its national sanctions and decided not to extend waivers with regard to the trade in oil with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and not to fully renew waivers for nuclear non-proliferation projects in the framework of the Plan. These actions are contrary to the goals set out in the Plan and UNSC resolution 2231.

We deeply regret the very worrying steps taken over the last few months by the Islamic Republic of Iran to reduce its nuclear-related commitments under the Plan, as verified by the IAEA. We strongly urge Iran to reverse these measures without any delay and refrain from taking further escalatory steps.

We continue to support the professional and impartial role played by the IAEA, the international body charged with the monitoring and verification of the implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA and UNSC resolution 2231. We have full confidence in the work and impartiality of the IAEA.

We recognize the latest progress on the operationalization of Instex aimed at facilitating legitimate trade with Iran and the decision taken by six European countries (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden) to become shareholders joining the three founding members (France, Germany, and the United Kingdom).

We are gravely concerned about the findings of the UN Secretary General regarding Iran's activities which are inconsistent with UNSC resolution 2231 Annex B. This includes Iran's continuing ballistic missile activities, including tests and launches. We are furthermore worried about indications of continued illicit transfers of arms in violation of UNSC resolution 2231, including conventional arms, missiles and missile technology, by Iran to

regional actors. We call on Iran to cease such activities, which only deepen mistrust and increase regional tensions.