

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the Security Council
Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015)
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith, as agreed among the representatives of the Security Council for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), my six-month report on the implementation of the resolution, which covers the period from 24 June to 17 December 2020.

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Philippe **Kridelka**
Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of
resolution 2231 (2015)



Tenth six-month report of the Facilitator on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)

I. Introduction

1. The note by the President of the Security Council of 16 January 2016 (S/2016/44) set forth practical arrangements and procedures for the Council for carrying out tasks related to the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), particularly with respect to the provisions specified in paragraphs 2 to 7 of annex B to that resolution.
2. According to the note, the Security Council should select, on an annual basis, one member to serve as its Facilitator for the functions specified therein. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the note, and after consultations among the members of the Council, on 24 September 2020, I was appointed as Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) for the period ending 31 December 2020 (see S/2020/2/Rev.6).
3. It was also established in the note that the Facilitator should brief the other members of the Security Council on its work and the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) every six months, in parallel with the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution.
4. The present report covers the period from 24 June to 17 December 2020.

II. Summary of the activities of the Security Council in the “2231 format”

5. On 24 June 2020, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran sent a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2020/583) outlining the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the ninth report of the Secretary-General, as described further in paragraph 9 of the present report.
6. On 30 June 2020, the Security Council, via an open video-teleconference,¹ was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2020/531), by the Facilitator at that time (Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve, Permanent Representative of Belgium) on the work of the Council and the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), and by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, on behalf of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in his capacity as Coordinator of the Joint Commission established in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, on the procurement channel (S/2020/508).
7. On 14 December 2020, the “2231 format” of the Security Council held an informal meeting via a closed video-teleconference and reviewed the findings and recommendations of the tenth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2020/1177).
8. During the reporting period, a total of 37 notes were circulated within the “2231 format”. In addition, I sent 23 official communications to Member States and/or the

¹ See S/2020/644. In accordance with the procedure set out in the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Council (S/2020/372), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, briefings and statements delivered during open video-teleconferences will be issued as an official document of the Council.

Coordinator of the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission. I received a total of 23 communications from Member States and the Coordinator.

III. Monitoring the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015)

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

9. In a letter dated 24 June 2020 (S/2020/583), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran outlined the views of his country regarding the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), making 18 specific points. In his letter, he noted that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was “under serious threat” as a result of the “unlawful unilateral sanctions, in violation of resolution 2231 (2015),” imposed by the United States of America, which “rendered the Iranian benefits from the ... Plan almost completely inaccessible”. He also stressed that the statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), as reflected in the annex to document S/2015/550, and the positions contained therein, remain valid.

10. In line with paragraph 4 of resolution 2231 (2015), the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency submitted updates in July (S/2020/1002), October (S/2020/1137) and November (S/2020/1139) and regular reports in September (S/2020/1003) and November (S/2020/1138) to the Agency’s Board of Governors and, in parallel, to the Security Council on the Agency’s verification and monitoring activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the light of resolution 2231 (2015).

11. In a letter dated 15 July 2020 (S/2020/716), the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation transmitted a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the fifth anniversary of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. In its statement, the Ministry noted, inter alia, that the Plan’s implementation “constantly requires enormous tenacity and perseverance from its participants”, that the “opportunity remains in place for [the Plan] to return to a stable footing” and that the Russian Federation would work together with its partners to “find ways to de-escalate the situation and protect [the Plan]”.

12. In a letter dated 12 October 2020 (S/2020/1000), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated, inter alia, that “the President of the United States issued an executive order imposing sanctions against Iran in violation of the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015)” and that “the United States also extended its unlawful sanctions to several entities and individuals including those involved in the Iranian peaceful nuclear projects provided in Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)”, thereby “prevent[ing] the implementation of commitments and obligations of Member States under resolution 2231 (2015) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action”.

Arms-related transfers and restrictions

13. In a letter dated 28 June 2020 (S/2020/608), the Permanent Representative of Israel stated his concerns regarding the behaviour of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Middle East, including arms transfers, the transportation of advanced weaponry, the transfer of advanced technologies and expertise, as well as various other violations. In his letter, he urged the Security Council “to ensure that the arms embargo on Iran [would] be extended beyond the current October deadline”. In response, in a letter dated 5 July 2020 (S/2020/651), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that his country “categorically reject[ed] all

unfounded claims” raised in the aforementioned letter by Israel, which “has spared no effort ... to undermine [the] implementation [of resolution 2231 (2015)]”.

14. In letters dated 30 June, 2 July and 3 July 2020 (S/2020/626, S/2020/628, S/2020/640 and S/2020/650), the Permanent Representatives of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Yemen referred to the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) and conveyed concerns regarding the expiration of the arms restrictions. In his letter, the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia stated that “Iran is a force for destruction, destabilization and ruin in the region” and appealed to the Security Council “not to allow the arms embargo to end”. The Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates stated that the United Arab Emirates was “deeply concerned by Iran’s non-compliance with its nuclear commitments” and was “particularly concerned about the impending expiry of some of the restrictions imposed by resolution 2231 (2015) ... and the implications that that might have for [the] region”. The Permanent Representative of Bahrain noted the “dangerous and destabilizing role of Iran” and stressed “the need for the international community and the Security Council to extend the arms embargo imposed on Iran”. The Permanent Representative of Yemen stressed “the importance of the Security Council and the international community’s upholding their responsibilities, exercising pressure on the Iranian regime and extending the arms embargo imposed on Iran in order to maintain international peace and security”.

15. In response, in a letter dated 14 July 2020 (S/2020/712), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the aforementioned letters “levelled baseless claims against Iran” and were “detached from the actual realities in the region”, with the real source of insecurity the “massive build-up of foreign forces” and “the accumulation of armaments by these countries”. He further noted that those States “seriously weaken the effective implementation” of resolution 2231 (2015).

16. In a letter dated 24 July 2020 (S/2020/739), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted the “allegations” made by Israel and the United States during the Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East held on 21 July and “their call for the imposition of an arms embargo” on the Islamic Republic of Iran, “in violation of resolution 2231 (2015)” and “in pursuance of their common policy, the ultimate objective of which is to kill the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action forever”.

17. In a letter dated 9 August 2020 (S/2020/788), the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates transmitted a letter concerning resolution 2231 (2015) from the Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. In his letter, the Secretary-General submitted that “Iran’s arms proliferation to extremist groups across the region has continued in violation of numerous Security Council resolutions, including ... resolution 2231 (2015)” and called upon the Security Council “to uphold [its] mandate to maintain international peace and security and to act to maintain United Nations restrictions on Iran’s ability to purchase or provide arms”. He urged the Council to extend the provisions outlined in annex B to resolution 2231 (2015), in particular regarding “the transfer of conventional arms to and from Iran”, which were set to expire on 18 October 2020, until the Islamic Republic of Iran “ceased its destabilizing activities”. In response, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a letter dated 15 December 2020 (S/2020/1221), stated that he “categorically reject[ed]” the “allegations” contained in the letter.

18. In his letter dated 14 August 2020 (S/2020/803) addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council, the President of the Council informed them that the Council had concluded its voting

procedure on the draft resolution contained in document [S/2020/797](#), submitted by the United States in connection with the agenda item “Non-proliferation” and the expiration of paragraph 5 and paragraph 6 (b) and (e) of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).² In his letter, he stated that the draft resolution had not been adopted, having received 2 votes in favour and 2 against, with 11 abstentions. Letters received in response from the members of the Council indicating their national positions on the draft resolution, as well as statements subsequently submitted by Council members providing explanations of their votes, including a statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran, were annexed to a letter dated 15 August from the President of the Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Council ([S/2020/805](#)).

Paragraphs 11 and 12 of resolution 2231 (2015)

19. In a letter dated 20 August 2020 ([S/2020/815](#)), the Permanent Representative of the United States transmitted a letter from the Secretary of State of the United States addressed to the President of the Security Council. In his letter, the Secretary of State stated that in accordance with paragraph 11 of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), the United States was notifying the Council that Iran was in “significant non-performance of its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action” and that “pursuant to this notification, which the United States makes as one of the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] participants identified in paragraph 10 of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), the process set forth in paragraphs 11 and 12 of that resolution leading to the reimposition of specified measures terminated under paragraph 7 (a) has been initiated”.

20. In a letter dated 20 August 2020 ([S/2020/814](#)), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran transmitted a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning “the intended inadmissible submission of a ‘notification’ by the United States”. The letter presented a set of “factual and legal observations”, namely the “termination of United States participation in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action”, the fact that the “United States officially abrogated any right to dispute resolution mechanism”, the “United States material breach of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and lack of good faith” and “Iran’s efforts in good faith to fully implement the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action]”. In his letter, the Minister concluded that the United States had “no right of recourse to the reapplication of the provisions of the terminated resolutions”. He also urged the Security Council to take “all appropriate measures to prevent the United States ... from unilaterally and unlawfully abusing the dispute resolution mechanism, with the stated objective of destroying the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] and resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)”.

21. In a letter dated 20 August 2020 ([S/2020/816](#)), the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation stated his country’s concern about “the attempts of the United States to trigger a ‘snapback’ mechanism” and outlined its “detailed legal position on this matter”. He condemned the “illegitimate moves” of the United States and noted that “the ‘snapback’ mechanism has not been triggered”, an approach shared, to his country’s knowledge, “by the majority of the Security Council members”.

22. In a letter dated 20 August 2020 ([S/2020/817](#)), the Permanent Representative of China stated that the “requests and attempts” of the United States were “illegitimate, since it unilaterally withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in May 2018 and is no longer a participant”. He noted that “the remaining participants [in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] and the overwhelming majority of Security

² Pursuant to annex B of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), the arms-related restrictions on the Islamic Republic of Iran (para. 5 and para. 6 (b)) and the travel ban (para. 6 (e)) applied for five years from the date of adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, namely until 18 October 2020.

Council members believe that the United States claim has no legal basis” and that its communication “should not constitute the basis for invoking the snapback mechanism”. He also requested the President of the Security Council “not to identify and circulate the United States communication as the ‘notification’ specified in paragraph 11 of resolution 2231 (2015)”, “not to take any action before the Security Council makes its decision”, and to “convene an informal consultation of the Security Council and seek views of Council members on how to proceed”.

23. In a letter dated 20 August 2020 (S/2020/821), the Permanent Representatives of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia noted that resolution 2231 (2015) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action were “inextricably linked” and “mutually contingent”, and that the United States, having “of its own volition, unilaterally [withdrawn] from the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action]”, was “ineligible to submit a notification to the Security Council under the terms of resolution 2231 (2015)”. In their letter, they also emphasized that it was “crucial” for all parties to fully implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action “in order to re-establish trust in the agreement”.

24. In their respective letters dated 20 and 21 August 2020 to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, Estonia and Viet Nam and the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (“the E3”) stated their views regarding the United States notification, noting, inter alia, that having ceased its participation in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the country could not be considered as a “participant state” anymore and therefore was not allowed to trigger the procedure under paragraph 11 of resolution 2231 (2015). They also stated their support for the full implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

25. In a letter dated 21 August 2020 (S/2020/824), the Permanent Representative of Indonesia stated that the United States “cannot invoke the snapback mechanism under resolution 2231 (2015) because it has withdrawn from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action” and that the aforementioned letter sent by the United States could not be considered as a “notification within the meaning of paragraph 11 of resolution 2231 (2015)”, and that “any subsequent action based on this notification [had] no legal effect”.

26. In a letter dated 21 August 2020 to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam stated that “States may not retain the respective rights after disowning from fulfilling their own obligations” under their commitments to international agreements. The Permanent Representative indicated that the United States had announced its ceasing of participation in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in May 2018 and stated that the Plan “constitutes an integral part” of resolution 2231 (2015) and as such, “the invocation of processes and procedures under resolution 2231 shall follow the implementation of the [Plan]”. The Permanent Representative also reiterated the consistent position of Viet Nam in supporting the full implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

27. In a letter dated 21 August 2020 (S/2020/822), the Permanent Representative of the United States transmitted “an explanation of the legal basis for the United States’ right to initiate snapback under Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)”. In the explanation, it was noted that “the plain text of resolution 2231 (2015) establishes and fixes the United States’ right to initiate the snapback of United Nations measures on Iran” and that this right was “available to the United States irrespective of its current position on, or activities in relation to, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of

Action, a non-binding political arrangement that is related to but distinct from resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)”.

28. On the same day, in a letter dated 21 August 2020 ([S/2020/828](#)), the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation transmitted a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the “illegal actions” of the United States in the Security Council to reinstate sanctions on Iran.

29. In a letter dated 27 August 2020 addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council ([S/2020/837](#)), the President of the Council announced that “there [was] no consensus in the Council” and that “the President [was] therefore not in the position to take further action” in response to the United States notification.

30. In a letter dated 26 August 2020 ([S/2020/839](#)), the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany, on behalf of the four European Union member States of the Security Council, Belgium, Estonia, France and Germany, transmitted a statement by the European Union High Representative and Coordinator of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. In his statement, the High Representative recalled that, because the United States “unilaterally ceased participation in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action”, it “cannot ... be considered to be a ... participant State for the purposes of possible sanctions snapback”. He further stated that, as Coordinator of the Joint Commission, he “will continue to do everything possible to ensure the preservation and full implementation of the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] by all”.

31. In a letter dated 18 September 2020 addressed to the President of the Security Council, and in follow up to their letter of 20 August 2020 (see para. 24 of the present report), the Permanent Representatives of France, the United Kingdom and Germany stated that “as of 20 September, the provisions of resolutions [1696 \(2006\)](#), [1737 \(2006\)](#), [1747 \(2007\)](#), [1803 \(2008\)](#), [1835 \(2008\)](#) and [1929 \(2010\)](#) will continue to be terminated pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)” and that the E3 remained “committed to fully implementing [resolution] [2231 \(2015\)](#) by which the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] was endorsed in 2015”.

32. In a letter dated 19 September 2020 ([S/2020/921](#)), the Secretary-General, in reference to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and the letter from the Permanent Representative of the United States ([S/2020/815](#); see para. 19 of the present report), stated that the Security Council, its members and its President had taken “no action subsequent to the receipt of the letter”. He also noted that the majority of Council members had written to the President of the Council “to the effect that the letter did not constitute a notification within the meaning of paragraph 11 of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#)”, with the Presidents of the Council for August and September both having indicated that “they were not in a position to take any action in regard to this matter”. He further stated that “in these circumstances, there would appear to be uncertainty as to whether or not the process set forth in paragraph 11 of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) was indeed initiated and ... whether or not the terminations in paragraph 7 (a) of that resolution continue in effect”, concluding that it was not for the Secretary-General “to proceed as if no such uncertainty exists”.

33. In a letter dated 19 September 2020 ([S/2020/922](#)), and in follow up to his letter dated 20 August 2020 ([S/2020/814](#); see para. 20 of the present report), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted that “13 members of the Council – including all remaining participant States of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action who are Council members – have unequivocally rejected the legal merit of the United States’ letter” ([S/2020/815](#)); that letter was, therefore, “null and void”, with “no legal standing and effect”, and “thus completely unacceptable”.

34. In a letter dated 20 September 2020 (S/2020/923) and in follow up to his letter dated 20 August 2020 (S/2020/817; see para. 22 of the present report), the Permanent Representative of China stated that “any decision or action resulting from the United States letter [was] devoid of any legal, political or practical effect” and that “the snapback mechanism shall not be deemed as invoked”.

35. In a letter dated 20 September 2020 (S/2020/924) and in follow up to his letter dated 20 August 2020 (S/2020/816; see para. 21 of the present report), the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation reiterated his country’s position, stating that the claims of the United States on “allegedly triggering the ‘snapback’ mechanism in line with paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)” were “illegitimate”. The official position of the Russian Federation was further elaborated in a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 20 September 2020, annexed to that letter.

36. In respective letters dated 21 September 2020 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, Estonia and Indonesia reiterated their views and positions as outlined in their previous letters of 20 and 21 August (see paras. 24 and 25 of the present report). The letters stated, inter alia, that the United States notification did not have any legal effect, that the provisions of previous United Nations resolutions on the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to be terminated pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of resolution 2231 (2015), and that support to and preservation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action continues.

37. In a letter dated 21 September 2020 to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam reiterated the position of Viet Nam, as outlined in its letter dated 21 August (see para. 26 of the present report).

38. In a letter dated 21 September 2020 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2020/931), the Permanent Representative of Belgium, on behalf of the four European Union member States of the Council (Belgium, Estonia, France and Germany), transmitted a statement by the European Union High Representative and Coordinator of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. In it, the High Representative stated that he took “note of the United States announcement of 19 September” and that “as recalled in [his] statement of 20 August, as well as in the Chair’s statement following the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action Joint Commission meeting on 1 September 2020, the United States unilaterally ceased participation in the [Plan] by presidential memorandum on 8 May 2018 and has subsequently not participated in any [Plan]-related activities”. He concluded that the United States “cannot, therefore, be considered to be a [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] participant State and cannot initiate the process of reinstating United Nations sanctions under Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)” and that “consequently, sanctions-lifting commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action continue to apply”.

39. On the same day, in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2020/928), the Permanent Representatives of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia also reaffirmed their position, as outlined in their previous letter (S/2020/821; see para. 23 of the present report).

40. In a letter dated 21 September 2020 (S/2020/927), the Permanent Representative of the United States stated that “pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 2231 (2015), since the Security Council [had] not adopted a resolution to continue in effect the terminations in paragraph 7 (a) of resolution 2231 (2015), effective midnight Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) on 20 September 2020, all of the provisions of resolution 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008), 1835 (2008) and 1929 (2010) that were terminated by resolution 2231 (2015) apply in the same manner as they applied before the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015)”. In addition, she stated

that “the measures contained in paragraphs 7, 8 and 16 to 20 of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) are terminated”.

41. In response to the aforementioned letter ([S/2020/927](#)), in a letter dated 12 October 2020 ([S/2020/1000](#)), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that “given the illegal nature of the claim by the United States” and its “rejection as null and void by 13 members and three consecutive Presidents of the Security Council, all ... [were] obligated, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), to refrain from any action or omission that might be interpreted, implicitly or explicitly, as recognition of the illegal claim of the United States”. He also noted that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was “under serious threat” due to the “illegitimate actions” by the United States.

42. In a letter dated 15 December 2020 ([S/2020/1221](#)), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that he “categorically reject[ed]” “all allegations” raised or conveyed in the letters dated 20 August 2020 ([S/2020/815](#)) and 21 August 2020 ([S/2020/822](#)) from the Permanent Representative of the United States (see paras. 19 and 27 of the present report).

IV. Procurement channel approval, notifications and exemptions

43. During the reporting period, three new proposals for the supply of items, material, equipment, goods and technology set out in document INFCIRC/254/Rev.10/Part 2 were submitted to the Security Council.

44. Since Implementation Day, a total of 51 proposals to participate in or permit the activities set forth in paragraph 2 of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), have been submitted to the Security Council by five Member States from three different regional groups, including States that are not participants in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. To date, of the 51 proposals that have been processed, 35 have been approved, 5 not approved and 10 withdrawn; 1 is currently under review. On average, the proposals were processed through the procurement channel in 50 calendar days. After the withdrawal of the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the procurement channel continues to function, and the Joint Commission continues to review proposals.

45. According to paragraph 2 of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), certain nuclear-related activities do not require approval but do require a notification to the Security Council or to both the Council and the Joint Commission. In this regard, during the reporting period, five notifications were submitted to the Security Council in relation to the transfer to the Islamic Republic of Iran of equipment and technology covered by annex B, section 1 of INFCIRC/254/Rev.13/Part 1, intended for light water reactors.

46. No notifications were submitted to the Security Council related to the necessary modification of the two cascades at the Fordow facility for stable isotope production, and no notifications were submitted to the Council related to the modernization of the Arak reactor based on the agreed conceptual design.

47. On 3 December 2020, the Coordinator of the Procurement Working Group transmitted to me the Group’s tenth six-month report of the Joint Commission ([S/2020/1164](#)), in accordance with paragraph 6.10 of annex IV to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

V. Other approval and exemption requests

48. During the reporting period, no proposal was submitted by Member States to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 4 of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

49. During the reporting period, no proposal was submitted by Member States to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 5 of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).³

50. During the reporting period, no proposal was submitted by Member States to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 6 (b) of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).⁴

51. Exemptions to the assets freeze and travel ban provisions are contained in paragraphs 6 (d) and 6 (e), respectively, of annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). No exemption requests were received or granted by the Security Council in relation to the 23 individuals and 61 entities currently on the list maintained pursuant to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).⁵

VI. Transparency, outreach and guidance

52. Reflecting upon my predecessor's introductory remarks as Facilitator during the first meeting in the "2231 format" in 2019 and emphasizing the role of the Facilitator as an "honest broker", I would like to reiterate that I remain committed to facilitating and strengthening the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), as well as to promoting dialogue, transparency, trade and the use of the procurement channel amid these challenging times. I remain concerned about tensions within the Security Council and hope that all members can come together in pursuing a common agenda.

53. Outreach activities by the Secretariat, as mandated by the note mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present report ([S/2016/44](#)), will continue to foster awareness of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). The website on resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), also managed and regularly updated by the Secretariat through the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, continues to play a significant role in providing relevant information.

54. In my role as Facilitator, I also held several bilateral consultations with Member States and their representatives, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, to discuss issues relevant to the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). As I continue to advocate for the Council's collective responses to international peace and security issues, I encourage the international community to act in line with paragraph 2 of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), which calls upon all Member States, regional and international organizations to take such actions as may be appropriate to support the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

³ See footnote 2.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.