

## Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing to the 1737 Committee

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Thank you, Madame President. And thank you, Ambassador Oyarzun, for your briefing.

Madame President, we may be entering a critical moment in the Security Council's consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue. For almost nine years, the Security Council has acted in response to concerns about the nature of Iran's nuclear program. By applying progressively stronger sanctions this Council supported international nuclear diplomacy and helped bring us closer to resolving this difficult issue through negotiations.

As we meet today, negotiators from Iran and the P5+1 countries are meeting in Vienna to finalize a comprehensive nuclear deal. This work is hard, and success is not guaranteed. This spring, we made great progress in Lausanne, Switzerland, by agreeing to the parameters of a nuclear deal. But there is still much work to be done.

We still need to flesh out important details, and resolve some challenging issues where there is still disagreement. Until there is a deal the Security Council must continue to stand behind its previous resolutions on the Iranian nuclear issue. The sanctions that this Council has imposed remain in force. Member States must continue to implement them fully, as required by Council resolutions.

Additionally, the 1737 Committee, with the support of the Panel of Experts, should continue efforts to improve sanctions enforcement, and provide useful advice to Member States on questions involving sanctions implementation. If Member States are able to share with the Committee or Panel evidence of sanctions violations, then we encourage them to do so at any time, even during this period of negotiations.

We were troubled to read in the Panel's recent report of continuing violations of the UN sanctions, such as those related to conventional arms and illicit nuclear procurement. Iran's trafficking of weapons – including to some of the most extreme and irresponsible actors in its region – remains a serious threat to peace. In addition to violating Security Council

resolutions, this smuggling supports terrorism, fuels Assad's violence in Syria, and further destabilizes Yemen. The United States, working closely with partners, will continue to help detect, disrupt, and seize such shipments.

As we announced in Lausanne, if a deal is reached, then the Security Council would be asked to adopt a new resolution to endorse it. That resolution would also terminate the provisions of previous sanctions resolutions upon verification that Iran has taken certain nuclear steps as well as establish ongoing restrictions. If such a resolution were to be adopted, the UN would continue to help ensure Member States understand their precise obligations in the period ahead. If there is not a deal, however, then needless to say, the work of the Committee and Panel will become even more critical.

For now, however, we look with hope to Vienna. I think I speak for all Council colleagues when I wish our negotiators the best of luck in their endeavor.

Thank you, Madame President.

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