

In a letter to UN chief:

Iran, Russia, China reaffirm end of UN Resolution 2231

International Desk

Iran, China, and Russia in a joint letter to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reiterated the termination of Security Council Resolution 2231 concerning the Iranian nuclear program, saying that the top body's adherence to the resolution's expiration date would "contribute to strengthening its authority."

"In accordance with operative paragraph 8 of Resolution 2231, all its provisions are terminated after 18 October 2025," said the letter, penned by the trio's diplomatic missions to the United Nations.

The date, therefore, "marks the end of the Security Council's consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue," the note added.

The letter comes as Guterres is expected to present a report to the UN Security Council (UNSC) on the implementation

of the resolution, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, known as the JCPOA.

Slovenia's UN Ambassador Samuel Zbogar, who chairs the UNSC, said on Monday that the 15-member body would receive the report this month and a meeting would likely be called afterward.

Resolution 2231 mandated suspension of nuclear-related sanctions against Iran after it was unanimously ratified in 2015. The United States unilaterally walked out of the JCPOA in 2018 and re-imposed and reinforced its sanctions and forced the European parties to the deal – France, Germany and Britain (E3) – to abide by them. On August 28, the European trio instigated the so-called snapback mechanism – officially called the Dispute Resolution Mechanism (DRM) – under the nuclear agreement, which led to reimposition of international sanctions on Iran.

The joint letter reminded that the three European nations had no legal right to have the sanctions restored due to their own non-commitment to the historic accord.

"The E3, having themselves ceased to perform their commitments under both the JCPOA and Resolution 2231 and also failing to exhaust the procedures of the DRM, lacks the standing to invoke its provisions."

The letter was referring to the unilateral withdrawal of the US from the agreement and the European trio's suspending their trade with Iran despite their commitments under the deal.

Iran, China, and Russia noted that the Security Council's adherence to the resolution's expiration date "contributes to strengthening the authority of the Council and the credibility of multilateral diplomacy."



Iran slams unilateral sanctions as 'crimes against humanity'

Detrimental effects of sanctions target lives, health of ordinary citizens: *Envoy*

Iran's representative at the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the International Criminal Court (ICC) denounced unilateral sanctions imposed on countries as "crimes against humanity."

Abbas Bagherpour, head of the Iranian delegation and Director General of International Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made the remark in The Hague on Tuesday, urging the international community to address their adverse impact on human lives, particularly on patients and vulnerable groups.

Bagherpour said the detrimental effects of unilateral coercive measures, directly targeting the lives and health of ordinary citizens, fall within the jurisdiction of international criminal law, according to Press TV.

The envoy also underlined Iran's commitment to confronting impunity and prosecuting serious crimes by mentioning the approval of a bill on international crimes and its submission to the Iranian Parliament.

The legislation aims to establish a specialized framework for prosecuting genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and military aggression, demonstrating Iran's willingness to



Director General of International Legal Affairs at Iran's Foreign Ministry, Abbas Bagherpour, speaks during a session of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague, Netherlands, on December 2, 2025.

● IRNA

cooperate internationally.

Bagherpour expressed concern about the impact of unilateralism and the normalization of genocide and war crimes on the pursuit of justice, saying that it placed the ICC under a serious test for future generations.

He also condemned the situation in Palestine, describing the ongoing Israeli actions there as an "open policy of genocide" that had deeply affected the conscience of humanity.

Referring to Israeli-US military aggression against Iran in June, the envoy said that the attacks deliberately targeted civilians, including women and children, as well as scientists, journalists, and civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and energy facilities, among them nuclear sites.

Bagherpour reiterated the need to pursue individual criminal responsibility for those who ordered, planned, or executed the attacks.

Official comptroller: Israel fails to protect vital facilities from Iranian missiles during war

International Desk

Israel's official comptroller on Tuesday accused the military of failing to protect vital facilities and institutes from Iranian missiles launched to retaliate the regime's aggression in June.

Several critical Israeli sites were struck by Iranian ballistic missiles during the war, including the Haifa Bazan oil refinery, which suffered damage to pipelines and transmission lines, and various important laboratories at Rehovot's Weizmann University among others.

The missile attacks were in response to Israel's unprovoked war, during which dozens of high-ranking Iranian military commanders and nuclear scientists, as well as hundreds of ordinary civilians were killed. According to comptroller Matanyahu Englman, the issue of physical defenses was first flagged in 2011 by a division of the Defense Ministry and his office in a detailed report in 2020 had highlighted the structures' vulnerabilities. However, he said all efforts to date on the issue had been ignored.

The physical defenses are distinct from Israeli air defenses such as the Iron Dome, David's Sling, the Arrow, and the Iron Beam. Those batteries are designed to prevent an aerial threat from crossing into Israeli airspace or getting anywhere near a variety of Israeli installations or residen-



A damaged building is seen at the campus of the Weizmann Institute of Science following an Iranian missile strike in Rehovot, occupied territories, on June 19, 2025.

● REUTERS

tial areas.

In contrast, the comptroller took various authorities to task for not providing specific physical defenses to specific critical infrastructure installations in the event that a missile breaks through the air defenses and strikes that installation.

Israeli air defenses were not hermetic, and Hamas, Hezbollah, Ansarullah, and Iran all succeeded in harming different critical sites at points in the war, sites which had no physical defenses, Englman said.

During the June aggression, Iran demonstrated the precision and effectiveness of its ballistic and hypersonic missile capabilities, striking multiple critical Israeli sites that had long been considered secure.

UN chief's report...

Given these dynamics, Guterres understands that as long as these institutions operate within the interests of powerful states, they survive.

Expecting him to take a position on Iran's nuclear file and the snapback dispute that openly contradicts the positions of the United States, the EU and the broader Western bloc and aligns instead with China and Russia is extremely unlikely. His stance is therefore not expected to satisfy Tehran.

How can Iran leverage the divisions among permanent Security Council members, especially between Western powers and Russia and China, to reinforce its diplomatic position and mitigate international pressure?

Historical experience shows that the Islamic Republic has rarely benefited

from such divisions. There is little reason to believe this long-standing pattern will suddenly reverse.

Moreover, the current Security Council structure largely aligns with Russian and Chinese interests. No decision contrary to their key interests can be taken due to the veto. In fact, it is the United States whose long-term position is weakened by a Security Council system that constrains major-power behavior more than it enables collective action. Russia and China also understand that pushing the US into a position where the Security Council no longer serves its interests — limiting its positive influence while retaining strong negative constraints — could hasten the collapse of an order in which Moscow and Beijing themselves hold substantial influence. Expecting a serious confrontation between Russia and China and the US and Europe over Iran is therefore unlikely.

If Western efforts to pressure Iran through Resolution 2231 and snapback ultimately fail, what legal or institutional alternatives could they turn to sustain pressure?

Iran is already under Chapter VII, Article 41. It would be relatively straightforward to piece together IAEA reports, document Iran's actions, such as missile activities, the expansion of enrichment capacity, or support for regional resistance groups, and to justify a referral from Article 41 to Article 42.

Such a shift could pave the way for the formation of a coalition against Iran. Expecting legal or institutional mechanisms to block such a move would be a mistake. What can truly alter this trajectory is reducing the threat perception surrounding Iran by demonstrating fundamental changes in its operational intentions. If such shifts do not occur, international legal mechanisms will likely work against Iran.

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