

The following Resolution was adopted by the full Democratic National Committee at its meeting on February 16, 2019, in Washington, DC.

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Resolution to Return the U.S. into Compliance with Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

WHEREAS, it is in the vital interest of the United States and its allies that Iran never develop or acquire nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2015, the United States, the People’s Republic of China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and Iran agreed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was endorsed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 2231 (July 20, 2015); and

WHEREAS candidate Donald Trump warned in 2015 against withdrawing from the JCPOA, saying “I think that it is a disastrous deal in so many ways...we have a horrible contract. But we do have a contract. ... Politically, and certainly for the nomination, I would love to tell you that I’m gonna rip up this contract, I’m going to be the toughest guy in the world. But you know what? Life doesn’t work that way.”; and

WHEREAS president Donald Trump reversed course on May 8, 2018, unilaterally withdrawing from the JCPOA in defiance of U.S. partners and allies and his own advisors and in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231; and

WHEREAS, the JCPOA has delivered substantial nonproliferation benefits, including Iran slashing its enriched uranium stockpile by 97% to less than 300 kilograms and the IAEA instituting the world’s strongest nuclear verification regime in Iran; and

WHEREAS, former President Obama [hailed](#) the JCPOA as an agreement “between the international community and the Islamic Republic of Iran” that builds on a tradition of “strong, principled” U.S. diplomacy; and

WHEREAS, former President Obama [warned](#) of the alternative to a diplomatic solution, “The choice we face is ultimately between diplomacy or some form of war -- maybe not tomorrow, maybe not three months from now, but soon.”; and

WHEREAS, agreements to sell civilian aircraft to Iran to ease the humanitarian consequences of Iran’s aging aircraft fleet would have supported an estimated [100,000 American jobs](#), but were canceled as a result of Donald Trump’s decision to terminate the deal; and

WHEREAS, full implementation of the JCPOA by all relevant parties is critical to ensuring that the Islamic Republic of Iran never seeks, develops or acquires nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has affirmed in 13 consecutive reports dating back to January 2016 that Iran is complying with the terms of the JCPOA; and

WHEREAS, unilateral U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA has caused a rift between the United States and its closest allies in Europe and undermined U.S. global leadership; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2018 the foreign ministers representing the European Union, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom declared they "deeply regret the re-imposition of sanctions by the U.S." and noted that they are "determined to protect European economic operators engaged in legitimate business with Iran, in accordance with EU law and with UN Security Council resolution 2231;" and

WHEREAS, German Chancellor Angela Merkel stated in [May 2018](#), after the U.S. violation of the JCPOA, that "it is no longer such that the United States simply protects us, but Europe must take its destiny in its own hands;" and

WHEREAS, French President Emmanuel Macron [stated](#) that "Iran was on a nuclear military path but what stopped it? The 2015 Vienna accord;" and

WHEREAS, British Prime Minister Theresa May said the JCPOA "remains the best means of preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon;" and

WHEREAS, Yukiya Amano, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has [said](#) that "if the JCPOA were to fail, it would be a great loss for nuclear verification and for multilateralism;" and

WHEREAS, UN Secretary General António Guterres [stated](#) in response to U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA that he "deeply regrets this setback to the JCPOA and believes that issues not directly related to the plan should be addressed without prejudice to preserving the agreement and its accomplishments;" and

WHEREAS, Federica Mogherini, the High Representative for the European Union, has [stated](#) that "there are more chances, more possibilities to open avenues for discussions with Iran on other issues, if the Iran nuclear deal stays in place rather than not;" and

WHEREAS, a bipartisan group of over 50 national security leaders, including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, [declared](#) "The U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear agreement (the JCPOA) does not advance the achievement of any of the U.S.'s objectives" and that the "intentional escalation of tensions and promotion of brinkmanship between the U.S. and Iran significantly increases the risk that neither side will be able to prevent a small, unintended clash from spiraling into a large, strategic conflict;" and

WHEREAS, then Secretary of Defense James Mattis affirmed during testimony before Congress on October 3, 2017 that it was in the national security interest of the United States to remain in the JCPOA; and

WHEREAS, former Secretary of State John Kerry [warned](#) that U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA has “made it more likely that there will be conflict in the region because there are people there who would love to have the United States of America bomb Iran;” and

WHEREAS, the Iranian people, who have long been victimized by their government, celebrated the conclusion of the JCPOA and have been harmed substantially by the return of far-reaching U.S. nuclear sanctions; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2018, the biannual UN Secretary-General report on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 welcomed Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments "in the face of considerable challenges" from the U.S. withdrawal of the JCPOA; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. and its allies remain deeply concerned by the behavior of the Iranian government, including its support for designated terrorist groups, ballistic missile testing and continued human rights abuses, and can best address these challenges through a unified international community rather than one that continues to be divided; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has failed to articulate a viable diplomatic strategy to curb Iranian activities at odds with U.S. interests and regional stability; and

WHEREAS, on [December 12, 2018](#), the European Union called upon Iran to refrain from activities that may deepen mistrust, including the issue of its ballistic missile program, but underscored that such issues are distinct from the JCPOA and must be addressed through dialogue; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of the JCPOA, regular dialogue and deconfliction channels, the odds of direct military confrontation with Iran dramatically increase;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the JCPOA is a key nonproliferation achievement that guards against Iran developing nuclear weapons and is of central importance to American security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the JCPOA was the result of long-term prioritization of diplomacy and recognizing the danger of precipitous U.S.-Iran escalation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the JCPOA was made possible through American leadership and tough, principled diplomacy, and its violation by the United States has done profound damage to American diplomatic credibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that returning to the JCPOA will restore America's commitment to an agreement made with allies and prevent a renewed nuclear crisis in the Middle East; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States should return to its obligations under the JCPOA and utilize multilateral and bilateral diplomacy to achieve political solutions to remaining challenges regarding Iran; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. and our partners in the P5+1 continue our efforts to press Iran to cease its regional meddlesome behavior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Iran should immediately uphold its international human rights obligations, including by releasing all political prisoners - including dual nationals - unjustly held in Iran.