

Information Circular

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Joint Statement by several Member States on Agenda Item 5(f) "NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran"

1. On 21 November 2024, during the 1746th session of the Board of Governors, the Resident Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of several Member States, requested that the attached Joint Statement by several Member States be published as an INFCIRC.
2. As requested, the Statement is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.

Joint Statement by**Republic of Belarus, People's Republic of China, Republic of Cuba, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Zimbabwe, and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela****on the agenda item 5f «NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran»
of the session of the IAEA Board of Governors**

(Vienna, 21 November 2024)

Mr. Chair,

Allow me to deliver the following Joint Statement on behalf of Republic of Belarus, People's Republic of China, Republic of Cuba, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Zimbabwe, and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

We recall Iran's long-standing commitment to nuclear non-proliferation as the State Party to the NPT. We welcome continued engagement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IAEA on all matters regarding implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in Iran including outstanding issues.

We highly appreciate in this context Director General Grossi's visit to Tehran on 14-15 November on the invitation extended by Iran. This visit allowed the Director General to establish contacts with new Government of Iran including the President of the Islamic Republic Pezeshkian as well as to observe some of the nuclear facilities. It is important that the two sides agreed to maintain communication and to continue the implementation of the Joint Statement of 4 March 2023. We are convinced that this visit would pave the way for enhanced engagement in order to promote further understanding and cooperation to resolve the two remaining outstanding issues. We welcome the decision of Iran, acting in good faith, to issue accreditation for 14 additional IAEA inspectors and to positively consider designation of new inspectors in full conformity with Article 9 of CSA, bearing in mind the discretion of the Members States, as well as the decision to provide the Director General with a visit to Fordow and Natanz and other enrichment-related installations. These measure has taken in good faith and on voluntary basis to allow the agency to carry out its activities under and beyond CSA.

We recognize continued cooperation and interaction between Iran and the IAEA Secretariat, including substantive discussions on the issues covered by the Joint Statement of 4 March 2023 during the high level meetings in Tehran on 14 and 15 November 2024, in particular on the issue related to the discrepancy in the nuclear material balance and possible elements to address Varamin.

Resolution 2231 and its preamble explicitly emphasize the importance of political and diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving a negotiated solution that guarantees Iran's nuclear program remains exclusively for peaceful purposes. Unfortunately, it is regrettable that certain Member States have failed to uphold their commitments to this solution.

The example of the JCPOA, agreed upon back in 2015 and endorsed by the UNSC Resolution 2231, clearly shows that only dialogue, constructive diplomatic engagement and political will can provide mutually beneficial results. On the contrary, since the unlawful and unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the agreement in 2018 and the reimposition of illegal sanctions and exertion of the maximum pressure policy against Iran, we have been witnessing only escalation by the US, E3/EU. If the full implementation of the JCPOA were in place today, it would have alleviated on a mutually acceptable basis the existing questions regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program. The IAEA Secretariat, in its part, would have had boarder verification and monitoring means

The current US Administration, despite its promises, has failed to bring the United States back to the JCPOA. Moreover, it continued the Maximum Pressure policy of the previous administration and did not invested necessary efforts to resolve the devastating situation, which had been created by the US itself. The new US Administration has the responsibility to rectify its mistake of 2018 and to bring the United States to its obligations under the UNSC Resolution 2231 without any preconditions.

We are of the strong view that the UNSC Resolution 2231 remains valid and shall be implemented by all States. Our support to the JCPOA has not changed. We urge all countries to fully implement all the provisions of the UNSC Resolution 2231, including its respective timelines. We emphasize that after the time frames envisaged in the JCPOA and UNSC Resolution 2231, the Iranian nuclear program will be treated in the same manner as that of any other Non-Nuclear Weapon State Party to the NPT.

We wish to emphasize that the current priority for the Board is to strongly encourage and support the Agency and Iran in their engagement through constructive dialogue and cooperation. Facts have time and again prove that confrontation and pressure are not conducive to resolve difference.

We deeply regret that a group of co-authors decided to present another draft resolution at the current session of the Board of Governors. Continued unconstructive and confrontational approach selected by the co-authors of the document again demonstrates their willingness to abuse the decision-making process at the IAEA, showing that a simple majority is enough to impose any discriminatory action against any Member States. We strongly condemn such attitude and believe that the draft resolution, if adopted, would be another mistake and miscalculation, inevitably leading to confrontation. The draft resolution undermines ongoing constructive bilateral cooperation between Tehran and the Agency as well as efforts of the Director General.

It is a matter of grave regret that the draft resolution has been processed by certain countries claiming that they honor the professionalism of the Agency, in a time that the DG was in Tehran and yet the report shall be distributed. This attitude clearly indicates that they do not care of any development regarding Iran and Agency cooperation, but narrow-minded political considerations prevail over wisdom.

Germany, France, UK and the US have already shown irresponsible behavior when they gave up joint efforts to restore JCPOA and left the Vienna talks in 2022. We urge the co-authors to abandon their political move, carefully consider the future of the Iranian nuclear issue in a rational and responsible manner.

Resolving the Iranian nuclear issue requires providing both the Secretariat and Iran with the necessary time and space to take further constructive efforts, thereby fostering a positive atmosphere conducive to political dialogue and substantive cooperation.

We call upon all IAEA Member States to play a constructive role and resist any attempt to politicize the safeguards issues. We should support cooperation rather than confrontation. In this regard, we call upon all responsible Member States not to support this resolution.

It would be appreciated if this Statement is published as an INFCIRC.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.