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Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)

Report by the Director General

1. This report of the Director General to the Board of Governors and, in parallel, to the United Nations Security Council (Security Council), is on the Islamic Republic of Iran's (Iran's) implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in relation to the production of enriched uranium targets.¹ It provides an update on developments since the Director General's previous report.²

Production of enriched uranium targets

2. As previously reported,³ in January 2022, the Agency verified the receipt at the Fuel Plate Fabrication Plant (FPFP) in Esfahan of 23.3 kg of uranium in the form of UF₆ enriched up to 60% U-235 from the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP) at Natanz. On 25 February 2022, Iran informed the Agency of changes to FPFP that would enable the conversion of UF₆ enriched up to 60% U-235 into U₃O₈ for the production of high enriched uranium (HEU) targets. On 28 February 2022, the Agency verified that Iran had begun the conversion of UF₆ enriched up to 60% U-235 into UO₂F₂ at FPFP, which is the first stage in the conversion process.

3. Between 6 and 9 March 2022, the Agency verified that Iran had converted at FPFP 2.1 kg of uranium in the form of UF₆ enriched up to 60% U-235 into 1.7 kg of uranium enriched up to 60% U-235 in the form of U₃O₈. On 8 March 2022, Iran informed the Agency that it had begun to use this U₃O₈ to produce HEU targets, each of which would contain about 5.8 g of uranium enriched up to 60% U-235

¹ JCPOA, 'Annex I – Nuclear-related measures', para 60.

² GOV/2022/4.

³ GOV/2022/4, paras 28 and 31-34.

and that these HEU targets would be irradiated at the Tehran Research Reactor (TRR). Iran also informed the Agency that after irradiation, the targets would be transferred to the Molybdenum, Iodine and Xenon Radioisotope Production (MIX) facility for the production of fission Mo-99.⁴

4. On 11 and 13 March 2022, the Agency verified that Iran had produced at FPDF 32 HEU targets in two batches of 15 and 17 targets, respectively, containing a total of 186.7 g of uranium enriched up to 60% U-235. On 12 and 14 March 2022, respectively, the receipt of these batches of HEU targets at TRR was verified by the Agency following their transfer from FPDF.

5. On 15 March 2022, Iran informed the Agency that all of the HEU targets had been irradiated at TRR as soon as Agency inspectors had removed the Agency seals.

6. On 15 March 2022, the Agency verified that Iran had produced at FPDF another batch of 56 HEU targets, containing a total of 329 g of uranium enriched up to 60% U-235.

⁴ GOV/2022/4, para 10.