

Board of Governors

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Road-map for the Clarification of Past and Present Outstanding Issues regarding Iran's Nuclear Programme

Report of the Director General

A. Introduction

1. This report provides an update, since the Director General's previous report,¹ on the implementation of the 'Road-map for the clarification of past and present outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear programme' (Road-map) agreed between the Agency and Iran on 14 July 2015,² aimed at the resolution, by the end of 2015, of all past and present outstanding issues that have not already been resolved by the Agency and Iran.

B. Recent Developments

2. As previously reported, as agreed in the Road-map, Iran provided to the Agency its explanations in writing and related documents, on the outstanding issues on 15 August 2015.³ The Agency reviewed this information and submitted to Iran questions on the ambiguities contained therein on 8 September 2015.⁴

¹ GOV/2015/50.

² GOV/INF/2015/14.

³ GOV/2015/50, para.8.

⁴ Note by Secretariat (2015/Note 69, 8 September 2015).

3. As also agreed in the Road-map, the Agency and Iran have held technical-expert meetings and discussions in Tehran to remove the ambiguities. Further meetings are planned prior to 15 October 2015, the date in the Road-map by which the activities aimed at resolving past and present outstanding issues are to be completed.

4. On 20 September 2015, the Director General held constructive and substantive talks with the President of Iran, HE Hassan Rouhani, the Vice-President of Iran and President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, HE Ali Akbar Salehi, and the Foreign Minister of Iran, HE Mohammad Javad Zarif, on the implementation of the Road-map. They also exchanged views on issues related to the implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed by the E3/EU+3 and Iran in July 2015. The Director General also met with members of the Iranian Parliament's Special Commission for Reviewing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

5. On 20 September 2015, the Director General, together with the Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Safeguards, Mr Tero Varjoranta, visited the particular location at the Parchin site of interest to the Agency.⁵ This was the first time that the Agency had visited this location.

C. Parchin

6. As previously reported, since February 2012, the Agency has observed, through satellite imagery, a number of activities at the aforementioned location at the Parchin site that are likely to have undermined the Agency's ability to conduct effective verification.⁶ Notwithstanding these activities, the Agency continued to regard access to the location as important in order to clarify issues related to possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme.

7. Under the Road-map, the Agency and Iran agreed on a separate arrangement related to the issue of Parchin. The activities set out therein were carried out in the days immediately prior to the Director General's visit to Parchin, including the taking of environmental samples.

8. All of the safeguards activities carried out at the particular location at the Parchin site were conducted in a manner consistent with the Agency's standard safeguards practices and under full Agency monitoring. During their visit, the Director General and Deputy Director General entered the main building of interest, previously only observed by the Agency through satellite imagery. They saw indications of recent renovation. There was no equipment in the building.

9. They also observed indications of a small extension to another building mentioned in the Director General's most recent report to the Board of Governors.⁷ Following the visit, this extension is not a matter of concern to the Agency.

10. All of the information acquired by the Agency from these activities, including the analysis of the environmental samples and the visual observations made by the Director General and Deputy

⁵ The Agency has information provided by Member States indicating that Iran had constructed a large explosives containment vessel (chamber) at this location in which to conduct hydrodynamic experiments. Such experiments would be strong indicators of possible nuclear weapon development (GOV/2011/65, Annex, paras 49–51).

⁶ For a list of the most significant developments observed by the Agency at this location between February 2012 and the publication of the Director General's May 2013 report, see GOV/2012/55, para. 44, GOV/2013/6, para. 52, and GOV/2013/27, para. 55. Further developments were reported in the Director General's reports of May 2014 (GOV/2014/28, para. 59), September 2014 (GOV/2014/43, para. 67), November 2014 (GOV/2014/58, para. 59) and August 2015 (GOV/2015/50, para. 63).

⁷ GOV/2015/50, para. 63.

Director General, is being assessed by the Agency and, as foreseen in the Road-map, the Agency will conduct further discussions with Iran in the next few weeks.

D. Reporting

11. As agreed in the Road-map, by 15 December 2015, the Director General will provide, for action by the Board of Governors, the final assessment on the resolution of all past and present outstanding issues, as set out in the annex of GOV/2011/65.

12. The Director General will continue to keep the Board of Governors informed of developments in the implementation of the Road-map, as appropriate.