

Information Circular

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Joint Statement by several Member States on Agenda Item 6(c) "NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran"

1. On 7 March 2024, during the 1711th session of the Board of Governors, the Resident Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, 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 Agenda Item 6(c): “NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran”

(Vienna, 7 March 2024)

We have thoroughly studied the reports of the IAEA Director General «Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231» (GOV/2024/7) and «NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran» (GOV/2024/8). We appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat to conduct verification and monitoring activities in Iran.

We recognize continued exchanges between Iran and the IAEA Secretariat since the previous IAEA Board of Governors in November 2023. As it is reported by the Director General in GOV/2024/8 technical discussions between the Agency and Iran in Tehran were held on 29 January 2024, in particular, on the matter of discrepancy in nuclear material balance at the Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF). Following this meeting, the agreement was reached to correct the nuclear material accounting records and reports. It is stated in the report that the Agency considers, at UCF, the discrepancy in the nuclear material balance to have been rectified. We positively note the resolution of this matter as well as continued cooperation by Iran and its efforts in this regard.

We also positively note Iran's confirmation that in order to enable the Agency to effectively carry out its verification activities in Iran, in two different letters to the Director General dated 30 October 2023 and 13 February 2024, Iran approved further the designation of 14 new inspectors proposed by the Agency.

This week marks the anniversary of the Joint Statement by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) agreed on 4 March 2023. In this context, as it is reflected in the report by the Director General «Implementation of the Joint Statement of 4 March 2023» (GOV/INF/2024/1) of 3 January 2024, as well as in the recent report GOV/2024/8, on 30 December 2023 Iran allowed, on voluntary basis, the Secretariat to successfully service the cameras at the workshops in Esfahan where centrifuge rotor tubes and bellows are manufactured.

The relevant data collected since early September 2023 was placed under separate Agency seals and Iranian seals at the location. This is an important voluntary monitoring measure conducted under the Joint Statement of 4 March 2023 that goes beyond the obligations of Iran under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

Moreover, on 27 December 2023 Iran in its letter to the Secretariat stated that it was ready to discuss topics of interest to both sides and make further progress in the bilateral cooperation based on mutual understanding. We strongly believe that these positive developments and statements should be duly noted and taken into account.

We are of the strong view that it is fundamentally important that the interaction between Iran and the IAEA on resolution of the outstanding issues should continue with a forward-looking spirit, in a professional and depoliticized manner without interference from the outside. Any provocative action will jeopardize the current situation, hence should be avoided.

It is also important to underline that the report of the Director General GOV/2024/7 informs the members of the Board of Governors that during the reporting period the total stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60% in the form of UF₆ in Iran has declined by 6.8 kg. We welcome Iran's confirmation of two recent Iranian campaigns of mixing a total of 31.8 kg of uranium enriched up to 60% with uranium enriched up to 2%. These two campaigns go in addition to the previous down blending of 6.4 kg uranium enriched up to 60%, which was reported by the Director General on 4 September 2023.

Additionally, the Director General in his recent report GOV/2024/7 states that there has been no change in the number of operating cascades as well as Iran has not produced any uranium metal since the Director General's previous quarterly report.

We note the above-mentioned measures conducted in good faith, as well as the approach showed by Iran, to create positive atmosphere. We consider important that the parties involved in the JCPOA restoration process should notice those steps, avoid escalatory rhetoric and act to bring the Nuclear Deal back to full implementation, which

would allow addressing almost all the issues regarding the Iranian peaceful nuclear programme. We call upon the relevant parties to return to the negotiating table to achieve full implementation of the agreement by all sides.

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