



European Union

**EU Statement on
Agenda item 5: Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in
light of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015)**

**Board of Governors
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Vienna, 13-17 September 2021

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Iceland+, Liechtenstein+, Norway+, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

The European Union would like to thank the Director General for his report contained in document GOV/2021/39, and Deputy Director General Aparo for the technical briefing on 9 September 2021.

The EU reaffirms at this critical point in time its resolute commitment to and continued support for the full and effective implementation of the JCPOA and is determined to continue working with the international community to preserve this agreement of strategic importance for the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture. The EU calls on all countries to support its implementation in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

The EU supports the intensive diplomatic efforts within the JCPOA Joint Commission and the contacts of the EU High Representative as JCPOA Coordinator with all relevant partners. It is now more important than ever to resume the negotiations in view of a possible return of the US to the JCPOA, and the perspective of Iran's return to full JCPOA implementation as soon as possible. Therefore, the EU calls on Iran to return to negotiations in Vienna without further delay. This is of particular importance given the current dynamic expansion of Iran's nuclear programme while the IAEA's monitoring and verification activities have been seriously undermined.

* Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

The EU acknowledges the issues connected to the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA and the reimposition of sanctions by it. Alongside the verified full implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments, the lifting of nuclear-related sanctions is an essential part of the agreement. The EU would like to underline that it has fully upheld its commitments, including sanctions lifting under the JCPOA.

Transparency is a key element of the JCPOA. Accordingly, the EU reaffirms its deep concern at Iran's decision to suspend, as of 23 February 2021, the implementation of transparency measures as envisaged in the JCPOA, as well as the Additional Protocol, which has significantly reduced the Agency's access and oversight regarding sites, activities and relevant information. Additionally, Iran has not provided updated declarations and the IAEA was not able to conduct any complementary access under the Additional Protocol. For more than half a year, the IAEA has been deprived of an essential part of its knowledge of Iran's activities on the entirety of Iran's nuclear fuel cycle. Iran's decision substantially restricted IAEA's ability to verify that nuclear material and activities in Iran remain for exclusively peaceful purposes.

The EU is particularly concerned that Iran prevented the Agency from servicing its monitoring equipment and replacing the storage media, which has been seriously compromising the Agency's technical capability to maintain continuity of knowledge, necessary for its verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear-related commitments in the future. We are also concerned by the fact that the storage medium and the recording unit in one of the cameras at the Karaj complex are missing. In this regard, the EU welcomes the recent interactions and the agreement contained in the Joint Statement reached between the Director General and the Vice-President and Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. This is a positive step forward. However, emphasizing the importance of the IAEA being in a position to restore continuity of knowledge, it is essential that Iran provides this access without delay and returns to full implementation of IAEA monitoring arrangements.

The EU expresses its grave concern at Iran's continued actions inconsistent with the JCPOA and with severe and, in the case of R&D activities, irreversible proliferation implications. Some of these actions do not have any plausible civilian justification:

- the continued accumulation of enriched uranium, with increased quantities of material at 20% and 60% level of enrichment, far beyond the JCPOA thresholds; the significant increase in the production rate at 60% is particularly alarming;

- the continued installation, testing and accumulating uranium with advanced centrifuges, including the envisaged acceleration of uranium enrichment at up to 20% at Fordow;
- sub-header modifications for IR-6 centrifuge cascades at Fordow, which could make it technically possible to enrich at even higher levels efficiently and at short notice;
- significant work on uranium metal, including the deconversion of enriched UF₆ and subsequent production of uranium metal enriched up to 20%.

We strongly urge Iran to reverse all activities inconsistent with the JCPOA and return, without delay, to its full implementation, including of all transparency measures, and support the efforts of the JCPOA participants in addressing all relevant issues within the JCPOA framework.

This, together with full implementation of the CSA, including modified Code 3.1 to its subsidiary arrangements, the Broader Conclusion and early ratification and provisional application of the Additional Protocol is essential to help building international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. Timely and full cooperation with the IAEA remains absolutely crucial.

The EU commends the Director General and the Secretariat for their professional, objective and impartial work and fully supports the IAEA's long-term mission of continued verification and monitoring in Iran, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The EU wholly supports the Director General's efforts to maintain necessary verification and monitoring activities of Iran's nuclear commitments under the JCPOA. We urge Iran to address all Agency's concerns without delay.

We welcome Member States' extra budgetary support to IAEA's mission in Iran.

Madam Chair,

The EU takes note of the Director General's report and requests that it be made public.

Thank you, Madam Chair.