



European Union

Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors

Vienna, 9-13 September 2019

Agenda item 6: Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015)

Madam Chair,

1. 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*, Iceland+, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Liechtenstein+, Norway+, the Republic of Moldova and San Marino.
2. The European Union would like to thank the Acting Director General for his reports *contained in documents GOV/2019/32 and GOV/INF/2019/10 on the Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015)*, and the Secretariat for the technical briefing on 5 September 2019.
3. At the outset, the EU would like to reiterate its position that it regards the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture.

Madam Chair,

4. The EU expresses its resolute commitment to and continued support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and is determined to continue working with the international community to preserve the JCPOA, an important multilateral achievement, unanimously endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2231(2015). The JCPOA is a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture crucial for regional, European and international security. The JCPOA has been working and delivering on its main goal: to provide the international community with the necessary assurances on the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. Alongside the verified implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments, the lifting of nuclear-related sanctions is an essential part of the agreement.
5. In this context, the EU deeply regrets the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA and the re-imposed sanctions and calls on all countries to refrain from taking actions that impede the implementation of JCPOA commitments.
6. We welcome that the IAEA evaluates all safeguards relevant information available to it in line with standard practice and we encourage it to continue to do so as new information becomes available to it.
7. The EU takes note that work on INSTEX, which is a special purpose vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade with Iran, continues, its first transactions are being processed and some additional EU Member States are in the process of joining as shareholders. The EU has been consistent and clear that our commitment to the nuclear deal, including sanctions lifting for the benefit of the Iranian people depends on full compliance by Iran.

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

8. The EU is deeply concerned that, as confirmed by the IAEA, Iran has exceeded the JCPOA stockpile limit of enriched uranium and is enriching uranium above the level of maximum 3.67% allowed by the JCPOA. We are particularly concerned about developments reported by the IAEA in its report of 8 September regarding Iran's expansion of its centrifuge R&D activities. The recent installation of centrifuges is inconsistent with the JCPOA, and the intended installation of additional centrifuges, as reported by the IAEA, is extremely worrisome as it could significantly increase Iran's enrichment capacity. We have repeatedly stressed that full implementation of the JCPOA by Iran is and remains essential. We note Iran's stated intention to remain within the JCPOA and we urge Iran to reverse these steps and to return to full JCPOA compliance without delay. We support the efforts of the JCPOA participants in addressing these issues within the JCPOA framework, including by the Joint Commission.

Madam Chair,

9. The EU commends, once again, the Director General and the Secretariat for their continued professional, technical and impartial work in verifying and monitoring Iran's nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA and in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2231. We welcome the information as contained in the reports and the complementary details provided during the technical briefing organised on 5 September 2019 on the implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA.
10. We encourage the Director General to continue to provide further detailed information (as outlined in paragraph 4 of Board of Governors Resolution GOV/2015/72 of 15 December 2015) on all nuclear measures listed in all sections of Annex I of the JCPOA in his future reports. This will be essential to enable the Board to gain a full understanding of the ongoing JCPOA implementation and to react promptly should any issue arise.
11. The EU fully supports the IAEA's long-term mission of verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear-related commitments and recalls the importance of ensuring the necessary resources – including sufficient and sustainable extra budgetary funds - for the Agency to carry out its role. To that end, we welcome that as of 23 August 2019, €5.5 million extra budgetary funding had been pledged to cover the costs of JCPOA-related activities for 2019 and beyond.

Madam Chair,

12. Implementation Day marked the beginning of Iran's provisional application of the Additional Protocol to its Safeguards Agreement, pending its entry into force, and the implementation of the modified Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangements to its Safeguards Agreement. In this regard, the EU welcomes that the Agency "continued to evaluate Iran's declarations under the Additional Protocol and to conduct complementary accesses under the AP to all the sites and locations in Iran which it needed to visit". The EU fully supports the Secretariat in this regard and notes the DG's comment in para 24 of his report (GOV/2019/32) that "timely and proactive cooperation by Iran in providing access facilitates implementation of the Additional Protocol and enhances confidence". It remains important that Iran provides such timely and proactive cooperation on all requested access to all the sites and locations in Iran which the Agency needs to visit.
13. The EU also notes with concern that paragraph 24 of the report states that -and I quote - "Ongoing interactions between the Agency and Iran relating to Iran's implementation of its Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol require full and timely cooperation by Iran. The Agency continues to pursue this objective with Iran." We urge Iran to cooperate fully and especially also in a timely manner with the IAEA.. In this regard, we also support the Acting DG who stressed in his introductory remarks the need for Iran to respond promptly to Agency questions related to the completeness of Iran's Safeguards declarations.

14. In addition, the EU welcomes that "the Agency's verification and monitoring of Iran's other JCPOA nuclear-related commitments continues, including those set out in Sections D, E, S and T of Annex I of the JCPOA". We ask the Director General to continue to include references to developments on all these aspects of Iranian compliance in his future reports to the Board.
15. The full and sustained implementation of the JCPOA together with reaching the Broader Conclusion is essential to help building international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. In this regard, the early ratification by Iran of the AP is essential.

Madam Chair,

16. We would like to request that, following past practice, the reports are made public. Finally, with these remarks, the EU takes note of the Acting Director General's reports.

Thank you, Madam Chair.