



European Union

Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors Vienna, 21-22 November 2019

Agenda item 4: 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+, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Liechtenstein+, Norway+, and the Republic of Moldova.
2. *The European Union would like to thank the Acting Director General for his report contained in document GOV/2019/55 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 14 November 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 aims at providing the international community with the necessary assurances on the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme and, in this regard, full implementation of the JCPOA remains essential.
5. 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. 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 has fully upheld its JCPOA commitments, including sanctions lifting as foreseen under the JCPOA.

Madam Chair,

6. The EU expresses overall grave concern over the different steps taken by Iran reducing its nuclear related commitments under the JCPOA. The EU is extremely concerned that Iran has transferred nuclear material to and restarted uranium enrichment at the Fordow facility, as confirmed by the IAEA in its 11 November report. Iran's action is inconsistent with the JCPOA's clear provisions on Fordow. The EU is

* Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro 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.

also deeply concerned that, as confirmed by the IAEA on 18 November, Iran has exceeded the heavy water threshold set by the JCPOA, in addition to Iran continuing to exceed the stockpile limit of low enriched uranium as well as the maximum enrichment level authorized by the JCPOA. Furthermore, the continued expansion of Iran's centrifuge R&D activities remains extremely worrisome as it significantly increases Iran's enrichment capacity. These activities are clearly inconsistent with the JCPOA and have potentially severe proliferation implications.

7. We urge Iran to reverse all these activities and return to full implementation of its JCPOA commitments without delay. We reiterate our support for the efforts of the JCPOA participants in addressing these issues within the JCPOA framework, including by the Joint Commission.

Madam Chair,

8. The EU commends, once again, the Acting Director General and the Secretariat for their continued professional, objective, independent and impartial work in verifying and monitoring Iran's nuclear-related commitments in accordance with Iran's nuclear obligations, as well as the JCPOA and United Nations Security Council resolution 2231. We welcome the quality and scope of the technical information contained in the report and the complementary details provided during the technical briefing organised on 14 November 2019 on the implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA.
9. 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.
10. 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 7 November 2019, €7.1 million extra budgetary funding had been pledged to cover the costs of JCPOA-related activities for 2019 and beyond.

Madam Chair,

11. 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 Acting DG's comment in para 29 of his report (GOV/2019/55) that timely and proactive cooperation by Iran in providing such access facilitates implementation of the Additional Protocol and enhances confidence.
12. It is essential that Iran provides 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 notes with deep concern that the IAEA has detected natural uranium particles of anthropogenic origin at a location in Iran not declared to the Agency as reported by the Acting Director General at the special session of the IAEA Board of Governors on 7 November. We are equally concerned that Iran has yet to provide satisfactory explanations to the questions raised by the Secretariat regarding the completeness of safeguards-relevant information by Iran on this issue. We urge Iran to cooperate fully and in a timely manner with the IAEA, including by responding promptly and in full to all relevant questions so that the Agency can verify Iran's declarations as soon as possible. We welcome the fact that in line with standard practice, the IAEA evaluates all available safeguards-relevant information and we encourage it to continue to do so as new information becomes available to it.
14. The EU also 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 report is made public. Finally, with these remarks, the EU takes note of the Acting Director General's reports.

Thank you, Madam Chair.