

# Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)

*Report by the Director General*

1. This report of the Director General to the Board of Governors and, in parallel, to the United Nations Security Council (Security Council), is on the Islamic Republic of Iran's (Iran's) implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). It provides an update on developments since the Director General's previous report.<sup>1</sup>

## **Technical Understanding**

2. As previously reported, on 29 January 2021, Iran informed the Agency that, according to a new law passed by Iran's Parliament,<sup>2</sup> Iran would take certain measures related to the JCPOA, including stopping Agency inspections beyond the Safeguards Agreement. On 11 February 2021, the Director General informed Iran that stopping or limiting the Agency's verification and monitoring activities would have a serious impact on the Agency's ability to report on the implementation of Iran's commitments and undermine the critical confidence in the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.<sup>3</sup> On 15 February 2021, Iran informed the Agency that Iran "will stop the implementation of voluntary transparency measures as envisaged in the JCPOA, as of February 23, 2021", including, inter alia, the "Provisions of the Additional Protocol to the CSA" and "Modified code 3.1 of the subsidiary arrangements to Iran's Safeguards Agreement".<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> GOV/2021/28.

<sup>2</sup> INFCIRC/953.

<sup>3</sup> GOV/2021/10, para. 7.

<sup>4</sup> GOV/2021/10, para. 8.

3. As also previously reported, on 21 February 2021, in a Joint Statement by the Vice-President of Iran and Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), H.E. Ali Akbar Salehi, and the Director General of the IAEA, the Agency and Iran reached a temporary bilateral technical understanding, compatible with Iranian law,<sup>5</sup> whereby the Agency would continue with its necessary verification and monitoring activities for up to three months, as set out in a technical annex. Iran and the Agency further agreed, *inter alia*, that Iran would continue to implement fully and without limitation its Safeguards Agreement with the Agency as before.<sup>6</sup> On 24 May 2021, the Director General and Vice-President Salehi agreed that (i) the information collected by the Agency monitoring equipment covered by the technical understanding would continue to be stored for a further period of one month up to 24 June 2021, and (ii) the equipment would continue to operate and be able to collect and store further data for this period, as provided for in the Joint Statement, dated 21 February 2021.<sup>7</sup>

4. In a letter to Vice-President Salehi, dated 17 June 2021, the Director General indicated that the agreement between Iran and the Agency reached on 24 May 2021 would expire on 24 June 2021 and stated that it was essential for the Agency to understand Iran's position regarding the possible continued collection, recording and retention of data by Agency monitoring and surveillance equipment, and the maintenance and retention of related records, after 24 June 2021.

5. On 18 June 2021, the Director General met the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, Abbas Araghchi, in Vienna, to review cooperation between the Agency and Iran, including the agreement of 24 May 2021.

6. As of 25 June 2021, Iran had not replied to the Director General's letter or indicated whether it intends to maintain the current arrangement, referred to in paragraph 3 above, which would ensure continuity of operation of the Agency monitoring and surveillance equipment and of storage of the information collected, as provided for in the aforementioned statement of 21 February 2021 and its technical annex.

7. The Director General stresses the vital importance of continuing the Agency's necessary verification and monitoring activities in Iran, including the uninterrupted collection and storage of data by its monitoring and surveillance equipment, and that an immediate response from Iran is needed in this regard.

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<sup>5</sup> GOV/2021/10, Annex I.

<sup>6</sup> GOV/2021/10, para. 11.

<sup>7</sup> GOV/INF/2021/31, para. 4.