



European Union

Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors Vienna, 10-14 June 2019

Agenda item 5: 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+, and San Marino.
2. The European Union would like to thank the Director General for his report *contained in document GOV/2019/21 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 6 June 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 reassurances 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. As confirmed by fifteen consecutive reports issued by the IAEA, Iran has continued to implement its nuclear-related commitments, subject to the comprehensive and strict verification and monitoring system of the IAEA, and it must continue to do so. We welcome that the IAEA evaluates all safeguards relevant information available to it in line with standard practice to underpin its verification activity. We encourage it to continue to do so as new information becomes available to it.
6. We are greatly concerned about the statement made by Iran on 8 May regarding its commitments under the JCPOA. The EU rejects any ultimatums and stresses that full implementation by Iran is essential. We will assess Iran's compliance with its nuclear related commitments on the basis of the IAEA Director General's reports about Iran's implementation of its commitments under the JCPOA, its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocol. The EU reiterates that, as long as Iran continues to fully implement its nuclear related commitments, the EU will remain committed to the continued full and effective implementation of the nuclear deal, including as regards sanctions lifting for the benefit of the Iranian people.

*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.

7. The EU commends, once again, the Director General and the Secretariat for their professional, technical and impartial work in verifying and monitoring Iran's nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. We welcome the information in the report and the useful complementary details provided in the technical briefing on the implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. We also take note of the information and ongoing technical discussions on Iran's centrifuge R&D activities with IR6 centrifuges, and we look forward to further updates. We welcome the proactive role of JCPOA participants in addressing such issues.
8. 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.
9. 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 28 May 2019, €5.0 million extra budgetary funding had been pledged to cover the costs of JCPOA related activities for 2019 and beyond.

Madam Chair,

10. 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/2019/21) 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.
11. 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 these aspects of Iranian compliance in his future reports to the Board. While welcoming the on-going implementation, the EU reiterates the need for Iran to continue cooperating fully and in a timely manner with the IAEA, including through implementation of its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol.
12. 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,

13. We would like to request that, following past practice, this report be made public. Finally, with these remarks, the EU takes note of the Director General's report.

Thank you, Madam Chair.