



IAEA Board of Governors

Meeting commencing 28 November 2013

Agenda Item 4(c): Iran

Mr Chairman

The Australian delegation thanks the Director General for his report on safeguards implementation in the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are certain that all members of the Agency have found the new Annexes to the report helpful and informative.

Mr Chairman

We welcome the Director General's continued perseverance in seeking to progress the Agency's negotiations with Iran, including by making his second visit to Tehran in the last 18 months.

We note that, on 11 November in Tehran, the Director General signed, together with His Excellency Mr Ali Akbar Salehi, Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, a Joint Statement on a Framework for Cooperation.

This agreement preceded the recent announcement of the "Joint Plan of Action", which has been negotiated between the P5+1 and Iran. Like the "Joint Statement", the "Joint Plan of Action" contains initial measures aimed at eventually ensuring the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program.

The "Joint Plan of Action" agreed on 24 November is a first step towards resolving the Iran nuclear issue, but the onus is now on Iran to implement its commitments under the agreement. This will be critical in building the international community's confidence in Iran's willingness to make further progress.

Mr Chairman

The Joint Statement between the Agency and Iran promises the resolution of "all outstanding issues" – "present and past" – and attaches a limited tranche of "initial practical measures" to be taken by Iran within three months.

The Joint Statement represents progress, in that we have an agreement signed between the Agency and Iran on a way forward to resolve outstanding issues. This step follows a long period of fruitless negotiating rounds on a "Structured Approach", and years of Iran failing to address the concerns of the international community, the resolutions of this Board of Governors, and those of the United Nations Security Council.

At the moment the Joint Statement is progress on paper – it will be judged on its practical results. It is up to Iran to put the "Cooperation" into the "Framework". We look forward to the Agency's assessment of those results before the March meeting of this Board next year. Then will we be able to begin to judge whether it is indeed a "Framework for Cooperation".

The Joint Statement has been reinforced by measures subsequently agreed by the P5+1 and Iran in the "Joint Plan of Action". We encourage the new Iranian government to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by both these agreements to resolve, without further delay, all outstanding issues related to its nuclear program, and to demonstrate conclusively to the international community the program's peaceful intent.

Mr Chairman

Although almost no new centrifuges have been installed by Iran since the previous report by the Director General submitted to the September Board meeting, in recent months Iran continued to enrich uranium up to both 5% and 20% levels of U-235, and its stockpile of UF₆ enriched to 20% U-235 continued to grow.

We note that, under the "Joint Plan of Action" negotiated in Geneva, Iran has committed to halt all enrichment above 5% and dilute, or fabricate into fuel for the Tehran Research Reactor, its existing stocks of uranium enriched to 20%. Iran has also agreed not to install additional centrifuges of any type, and limit centrifuge production to replacing damaged machines.

We look forward to seeing the practical outcomes of these undertakings by Iran reflected in the next report of the Director General.

Similarly, we look forward to seeing in the next report the Director General's confirmation of Iran's agreement to the enhanced monitoring of its nuclear facilities, including access by inspectors to centrifuge assembly workshops, and, importantly, submission of an updated DIQ for the IR-40 reactor at Arak.

Mr Chairman

Iran has not provided the Agency with updated design information for the IR-40 reactor since 2006. In his current report, the Director General advises that the Agency “needs updated design information as early as possible in order, inter alia, to ensure that all possible diversion paths are identified, and appropriate safeguards measures and customized safeguards equipment are put in place”.

It was disappointing to us that Iran had not agreed to provide this important information – which the Director General and the Agency had been seeking for years – much earlier, or even agreed to include it as one of the items in the initial Annex to the “Joint Statement”.

Mr Chairman

The Agency’s concerns about the Possible Military Dimensions (PMD) of Iran’s nuclear program were clearly set out in the Annex to the Director General’s report of November 2011. This Board meeting marks the two year anniversary of that report.

In his latest report, the Director General reiterated that the Annex to his report of November 2011 “provided a detailed analysis of the information available to the Agency, indicating that Iran has carried out activities that are relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device”. The Director General continues that “since November 2011, the Agency has obtained more information which further corroborates the analysis contained in that Annex”.

The Director General has also stated in the report’s section on PMD that “the outstanding issues that are not addressed by the practical measures in the Annex of the Framework for Cooperation, including those issues identified in previous reports of the Director General to the Board of Governors, will be addressed in subsequent steps”. The “Joint Plan of Action” also states that the proposed “Joint Commission will work with the IAEA to facilitate resolution of past and present issues of concern”.

Mr Chairman

Resolution of these “past and present issues of concern” continues to be of critical importance. We again call upon Iran to engage substantively with the Agency on PMD and provide answers as soon as possible concerning the issues raised by the Director General in the Annex to his report of November 2011. As a minimum, Iran should

agree to include PMD issues in the Annex to the Framework for Cooperation and work to resolve those issues within the specified timeframe.

Mr Chairman

Since the last meeting of this Board, we have two agreements that promise a way ahead following a decade of insufficient cooperation from Iran over its nuclear program. Notwithstanding its signature of these agreements, Iran has not provided access to Parchin and relevant personnel to address concerns about possible past nuclear weapons research. It has not abandoned heavy water related projects. Iran has continued to conduct activities at the Uranium Conversion Facility, the Fuel Manufacturing Plant and the Fuel Plate Fabrication Plant at Esfahan. And Iran still has not ratified, or taken steps to implement, its Additional Protocol.

The Australian Government acknowledges the recent willingness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to engage the international community and the Agency on key points related to its nuclear program. At the same time, we call upon Iran to address these critical issues without delay.

Australia supports the public release of the Director General's report on Iran.

Thank you.