Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Reza Najafi Resident Representative to the IAEA

before the

Board of Governors

Vienna

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In the Name of God

The Compassionate and the Merciful

Mr. Chairman, Director General, Distinguished Colleagues,

I would like, at the outset, congratulate you Mr. Chairman for presiding over this august body. I need to also convey the gratitude of my delegation for the continuous support of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement to Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

Mr. Chairman,

As my delegation stated in the last meeting of the Board, the policy of the new government of Iran is based on "mutual confidence-building and constructive interaction" in its international relations. This policy is gradually bearing fruits even in its early stages. We had two important achievements in a very short period of time: First the "Joint Statement on a Framework for Cooperation" which was endorsed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IAEA in Tehran on 11 November 2013 and then the "Joint Plan of Action" agreed by Foreign Ministers of the Group of EU3+3 and Iran in Geneva on 24 November 2013.

I would like to appreciate Director General Amano, and members of the Agency's team for their efforts. The recent report of the Agency reconfirms very evidently that all of the Iran's nuclear activities are peaceful and under the full-scope safeguards of the IAEA. With regard to the present and past issues, after our initiatives on practical measures and intensive negotiations in 27th September, 28th and 29th October and 11th of November meetings, Iran and the Agency signed a "Joint Statement on a Framework for Cooperation", according to which, the Agency and Iran have agreed to strengthen their cooperation and dialogue aimed at ensuring the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program through the resolution of all outstanding issues that have not already been resolved by the IAEA. Furthermore, the Agency agreed to continue to take into account Iran's security concerns, including through the use of managed access and the protection of confidential information. In the technical meeting in Tehran on 11 November 2013 both sides discussed how to start implementing the practical measures annexed to the Joint Statement and there will be another meeting on 11 December here in Vienna. By sending an official letter to the Agency and announcing Iran's readiness to receive the Agency's inspectors for a visit in the form of a managed access to the Heavy Water Production Plant on 8 December 2013 we are going to implement one of the 6 practical measures agreed.

In our view, all of the steps taken voluntarily by Iran have generated an opportunity for all parties involved to reach an agreeable solution. The report of the Agency speaks for itself and while we have strong reservations on certain parts of the report which mostly is repetition of the previous report, particularly on the UNSC resolutions, the issue of 3.1 Modified Code and the Additional Protocol; in our view the new trend of the report is positive and helpful. We are confident that Member States would support this new approach initiated by Iran. We appreciate the cooperative atmosphere created between Iran and the Agency and continue our constructive engagement and are confident for the removal of any ambiguities in a step by step manner starting from easy issues. Six practical measures proposed by Iran would be implemented in three months and during this time we will discuss the practical measures for the next phase.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran also has demonstrated its strong political will and determination by engaging substantively in negotiations with the Group of EU3+3 and has taken another important step through the agreement on "Joint Plan of Action" approved by Foreign Ministers of the Group of EU3+3 and Iran in Geneva on 24 November 2013. Voluntary measures undertaken by Iran which need to be reciprocated by certain measures of the other side during a six-month period would aim at paving the ground for a long-term comprehensive solution to enable Iran to completely continue exercising its inalienable rights under the NPT. The Joint Plan of Action is an important agreement in terms of maintaining the credibility and integrity of the NPT by allowing one of its States Parties to fully enjoy its rights under the Treaty while fulfilling its commitments. As it is referred to, in the preamble of Joint Plan of Action, the "comprehensive solution would involve a mutually defined enrichment program with practical limits and transparency measures to ensure the peaceful nature of the program." We are happy that this agreement has been recognized by international community as a crucial step to prevent an unnecessary crisis and open a new horizon for cooperation between its parties.

This achievement is just a first step towards a comprehensive agreement which should contain the removal of the issue from the agenda of the UN Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has already started to prepare itself for implementing the measures agreed under the Joint Plan of Action and we have had preliminary discussion with the Agency concerning the necessary verification activities in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Before concluding, let me restate that in our view the access to and use of weapons of mass destruction(WMDs) is opposed to our religious and Islamic teachings as well as international law and has no place in our defense doctrine. The Islamic Republic of Iran, being a victim of WMDs, is of strong belief that possession of nuclear weapons has not produced and does not ensure security for any country and the only absolute guarantee against the threat of these inhumane weapons is their total elimination under strict international control.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly and at the highest levels declared that its nuclear program, including enrichment-fuel production activities has always been and continues to be exclusively for peaceful purposes. The rights and obligations recognized under the NPT enable Iran, like any other State Party, to fully exercise its inalienable rights for peaceful applications of nuclear energy, a right that can never be compromised.

We are looking forward to strengthening cooperation and dialogue with the Agency in order to resolve all outstanding issues that have not already been resolved as well as the establishment of a Joint Commission of E3/EU+3 and Iran to monitor the implementation of the agreed measures and also the work with the IAEA for verification of nuclear-related measures under the Joint Plan of Action.

And I have a few words on the yesterday and today discussion in the Board. We heard many statements supporting the agreements reached in Tehran and Geneva. I would like to thank all of the delegations for their support. I advise a few delegates who have yet to digest the recent developments to revisit their statements and join international community that has already supported the Tehran and Geneva agreements.

On last speaker's statement before me, I should add the following:

Israel sitting on 200 nuclear warheads all of them are targeted at Muslim cities throughout Middle East and operating steadfastly its underground nuclear weapons production facilities is crying wolf about nuclear proliferation concern. This regime with a long history of aggression against neighbors, atrocity against peoples under occupation and clandestine development of all kinds of WMDs, particularly nuclear weapons is now pretending to be a pioneer and guardian of the NPT. Warmongers in Tel Aviv who had had secret cooperation with another racist regime of Apartheid for development of nuclear weapons should know that international community would finally hold them accountable for all their illegal actions.

Thank you for your attention.