

Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Reza Najafi

Resident Representative

of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the IAEA

before the

Board of Governors

12 September 2013

In the Name of God
The Compassionate and the Merciful

Mr. Chairman, Director General, Distinguished Colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to convey the appreciation of my delegation for the continued support of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement to Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

Mr. Chairman,

This year the world witnessed a massive turnout and creation of an unprecedented political epic by the great nation of Iran during presidential election on June 24 that highlighted convergence among the nation and improved Iranian status in the region and world. As President Rohani has stated clearly, the policy of the new government would be based on "mutual confidence-building and constructive interaction" in its international relations with the others.

I would like to emphasize that there is a strong political will on Iranian side to constructively interact with respective partners on nuclear issue and we hope there would be the same approach and political will on the other sides. In this context, we should not lose sight of the fact that interaction is not a one-sided road.

The same principles apply to our work with the Agency. We would continue to cooperate with the Agency in good faith to find agreed modalities to overcome existing issues once and for all. My delegation welcomes the Director General's remarks in his introductory statement on the IAEA's commitment to work constructively with Iran to "resolve outstanding issues by diplomatic means". We are looking forward to working closely with the Director General and his team in the coming days.

The Islamic Republic of Iran time and again has stated that its nuclear program has always been and continues to be exclusively for peaceful purposes. Based on its rights and obligations recognized under the NPT, Iran is ready to faithfully engage and remove any ambiguity on its nuclear activities. In this course, let there be no mistake, my officials are committed to ensure that Iran's established right to peaceful applications of nuclear energy under the NPT will never be compromised.

Mr. Chairman,

On the latest report of the Director General, my delegation has some comments and observations which would be distributed in writing at a later stage and as an INFCIRC document. However, I need to make a few comments on the report in this meeting:

- 1- Once again it is stated that the Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material at the nuclear facilities declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement.
- 2- On the issue of non-implementation of the Additional Protocol, Iran is not a party to it, and therefore, has no obligation to implement it;
- 3- For the question of not implementing modified Code 3.1, there exists a difference of interpretation between Iran and the Agency
- 4- And on legally-flawed resolutions, by which cruel sanctions are imposed on Iranian people, our positions are well-known and I am not going to repeat them.

As regard to the structured approach, my delegation, in principle, is not willing, and considers it inappropriate, to get into details of a document on which negotiations are still underway. However, since the Agency made public its views on the details of the document without mentioning Iran's observations on the same points, I need to be more specific.

My delegation fully shares two significant points made in the report. Firstly, the Agency stated that "it is important that the structured approach document be sufficiently unambiguous to minimize any possible future misunderstandings between the Agency and Iran". In our view, exactly for this reason we cannot leave any ambiguous notion in the document. We believe unclear and vague concepts will only lead to a different interpretation of the document and can hinder its implementation. It would be wise that the differences be discussed and solved only during the negotiations on the document.

Secondly, another important point included in the report, is the Agency's assurance with regard to Iran's security concerns. We really appreciate such assurances and believe it is essential that those assurances be included in the document unambiguously. This is a very sensitive area that neither Iran nor any other country in the world can compromise on it. Therefore, when we are dealing with topics related to a defense establishment which is a national security subject, all necessary precautions must be made.

One last point with respect to the urgency of the substantive work which we also believe in, is that while we categorically reject allegations against our activities including those about certain locations in Iran, we would be ready to constructively cooperate with the Agency in order to remove any ambiguity around them in the framework of an agreement which is currently being discussed between Iran and the Agency, provided that the results of our cooperation would unconditionally be reflected in the reports of the Agency.

My delegation is very reluctant to touch upon other issues of differences and prefer them to be discussed directly with the Agency in order to reach an agreement and to start the substantive work as early as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

Some delegations, among them nuclear weapon possessors with thousands of nuclear warheads in their stockpiles, or those under nuclear umbrella and hosting hundreds of nuclear weapons in their soil repeated their unfounded allegations against my country's exclusively peaceful nuclear program by misquoting certain parts of the Agency's report. I would not intend to reply to such baseless claims since my delegation has already rejected them categorically. Those quoted parts of the report are nothing other than legitimate peaceful nuclear activities, being carried out under the IAEA full monitoring.

I would only refer to the last speaker's irrelevant accusations who spoke just before me. It is not surprising that the Israeli regime that has been suffering from the lack of legitimacy since its inception and has no friend in the region, tries to divert the attention from its clandestine nuclear weapons program by making unsubstantiated allegations against an NPT State Party whose all nuclear facilities are under the IAEA Safeguards. Contrary to that member of the Agency, Iran is a Party to the NPT, CWC and BWC forgoing all kinds of weapons of mass destruction. That non-party to the NPT with a history of aggression, occupation and state-terrorism, should better heed to the international community's constant calls by acceding to the NPT and putting its unwarranted underground nuclear weapon facilities under the IAEA Safeguards.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Before concluding, let me once more reiterate that In Iran's view the access to and use of weapons of mass destruction is opposed to religious and Islamic teachings as well as international regulations and law and has no place in Iran's defense doctrine. We are of the strong belief that access to nuclear weapons does not guarantee a real security for Iran or any other country. However, there is a necessity of recognition of Iran's right to use peaceful nuclear technology under the NPT.

Iran has already expressed its readiness for meaningful, result-oriented and time-bound negotiations based on mutual respect and a win-win agreed solution. As it was underlined by our President if the other sides want a proper response, they should speak to Iran not with a language of threat or sanctions but with a language of respect.

Thank you for your attention.