

Statement made by H.E. Ambassador M. Akhondzadeh before the Board of
Governors Islamic Republic of Iran

24 September 2005
(After Approval the Res.)

In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madam Chairperson

Today marks a significant day. It will be remembered as a turning point.

For over two years, Iran has been lingering on the agenda of this Board. A period through which Iran made unprecedented offerings to restore confidence on the peaceful nature of its nuclear program. It went through a most pervasive and intrusive security. It stood up to every challenge, and cleaned every allegation, however unwarranted.

At any instance where matters were resolved, new allegations were propped up, sketchy bits and pieces, which could not even be described as circumstantial, much less hard and reliable evidence. Yet Iran responded to each and every one of them. Each and every of the allegations were proved wrong. After all the bravado not a single trace of nuclear material, nor nuclear activity, has been found to evidence diversion to nuclear weapons, not a single one.

The one and sole issue where such evidence had surfaced was what is now established to be contamination from outside sources. Under normal, fair and reasonable circumstances, the last finding of the Agency confirming Iran's claim should have invoke closure of this issue. The remaining questions definitely lie within the routine Safeguards verification.

What this Board has done, is just the reverse. To dig back, deep and hard, into old and remedied failures to reconstruct and constitute what has been referred to as non-compliance, now and at this stage, can simply be described as outrageous. It is absolutely and firmly wrong on legal and technical grounds. No matter how stretched an interpretation of the Statute and the Safeguards Agreement, no basis for involving and engaging the Security Council could be established.

The Agency has confirmed that there is no evidence of diversion. The Agency states that this is a work in progress, indeed in good progress. The Agency notes that to achieve the ultimate conclusion, that very rare conclusion, of a full and clean bill of health under the protocol, it needs to carry on more work. How in the world can such entirely positive situation call for a decision of such adversarial and deviated nature and content.

I think most of what is inscribed in these papers is of disposable nature. It has no substance. It has no foundation. It has no grounds whatsoever.

There is only one reason for this decision and nothing else. The proponents, essentially western Nuclear Weapons States and their alliance are adamant in establishing their newly formed position that Non Nuclear Weapon States should, in addition to their existing commitments, forego once and for all, their inalienable right to develop and produce nuclear fuel and power for peaceful purposes. Otherwise, how and under what pretext can this body call on a member state to refrain from a peaceful activity, totally permissible under the NPT, and fully safeguarded and monitored by the Agency. Such call is wrong, and it creates a precedence that is even more wrong.

If heeded no other member state will be immune.

Iran suspended the work at the UCF in Esfahan under the Paris Agreement provided that a mutually acceptable agreement on our fuel enrichment programme could be reached. The proposal by E3/EU calling for elimination of the fuel cycle effectively nullified the Paris Agreement.

The decision today violates the provisions agreed between Iran and the EU3 in the Tehran declaration. With the involvement the Security Council, Iran will no longer have any commitments on the voluntary measures it adopted provisionally under that declaration.

Iran has gone beyond its way to seek and find an agreement with Europe on this issue. Iran has demonstrated maximum flexibility throughout this endeavour. Iran explored, pursued, and engaged actively, through extensive discussions and negotiations, particularly in the course of the past few weeks in New York and in here, to settle this matter and avoid an unwanted crisis. Regrettably, and despite goodwill efforts by many, all these efforts failed. There was simply too much intransigence from our counterparts to accommodate any settlement.

Under these circumstances:

1. Iran is prepared to continue its cooperation with the Agency in line with its Safeguards obligations;
2. Iran is prepared to work with the Agency with the purpose of building confidence and transparency by implementing the Safeguards for continued assurance on non-diversion to nuclear weapons;

3. Iran is also prepared to continue negotiations with all states, particularly the EU3, in the context of the President's initiative presented at the General Assembly in New York.

We reiterate, at the same time, that previous EU3 approach of delay and procrastination is not acceptable. And their unfounded calls to cease Iran's peaceful nuclear activities, a call that betrays the NPT and the Safeguards, and creates a damaging precedence for all states, should be withdrawn.

If confrontation with Iran's peaceful nuclear activity defying Iran's inalienable rights persists, Iran will stand against it and meet that challenge. Iran will, absolutely and definitely, not give up its right to complete its nuclear fuel cycle for its peaceful nuclear programme. The threats of Security Council do not, by any means, deter this decision.

We do not, however, seek confrontation. We do not welcome a diplomatic impasse. We do not seek an end to negotiations. But Negotiations under threat are meaningless and can not be conducive to an agreement. Under threats of confrontation we will have no alternative but to pursue and preserve our rights. And this, we will do resolutely.