

In the name of God

**Statement of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
before the
Board of Governor September 2003**

By H.E. Ambassador Dr. Salehi

Allow me at the outset, Madame Chairperson to express our deepest dismay and sorrow at the recent serial bomb attacks of the UN Headquarter and of the Imam Ali Holy shrine in Najaf Al-Sharif. We express our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to the bereaved families. We condemn such appalling attacks and call upon the international community to look carefully into the causes and the roots of such barbaric acts of terrorism, with a mission to uproot and eradicate them.

To continue, allow me, Madame Chairperson to thank the Director General and the DDGs Tanagushi, Burkart and mourogov for their comprehensive introductory statements.

It has become an established fact, even based on the findings of the report GOV/2003/63 that my country Iran has by leaps and bounds provided enormous amount of detailed information about its peaceful nuclear activities and has granted access requested by the Agency to additional locations and taking associated environmental samples. Such noticeable level of cooperations as could be admitted by any fair person has been certainly beyond the legal obligation of my country. Indeed, it is tantamount to provisional application of the additional protocol in my country. All this has been achieved in the light of our willingness to remove the legitimate concerns of the international community and as a sign of respect to the conclusion statement of the Chairman in the June Board. Therefore we stay committed to the tradition of consensus in the Board and do our utmost to uphold its sanctity. Any invocation of trends not conducive to the integrity of this basic norm, would eventually lead to undesired consequences.

My delegation Madame Chairperson is of the view that we should all pull in the same direction to maintain the unity of the Board and as a result to facilitate the work of the Secretariat in achieving its objectives, i.e. we should do our best to increase the authority of the DG and not to decrease it. We should give him all the space he needs to perform his responsibilities fairly and objectively.

The case of Iran, Madame Chairperson is a matter still incomplete. All the relevant parties must keep the running process ongoing. Any attempt to hinder the process is certainly not welcome. Encouragement and fair recognition of cooperation would accelerate the trend. Wrong signals and unpalatable prescriptions will likely undo what has been achieved so far.

As it has been seen and noticed from the media, there has been an intensifying heated debate about the issues on hand inside my country. We are at a decisive crossroad and I very much hope that with each other's help we make the right and the desired turn. We have to be careful not to give the impression that you get more through defiance. We are always faced by interrogative questions as what rewards has Iran received by its unprecedented high level of cooperation with the Agency other than receiving more nags from few influential member states.

As I had stated in the previous Board the use of the language of threat is futile. Iran is a committed state. Iran has consistently honored its obligations stemming from the international treaties that it has adhered to.

Iran is a responsible state and has demonstrated that during the imposed war. Despite its retaliatory capabilities Iran never succumbed to reprisal and therefore never used the appalling chemical weapon.

We look at the NPT as the protector of our rights to the peaceful use of nuclear technology. We likewise fully understand our obligations and stay faithful to them. If a country's right is baselessly denied and its obligations emphasized, that certainly would undermine its accession to the treaty. We would like to see the integrity of such international treaties held firm. We don't wish to see any cracks inflicted. We believe such treaties are important for international peace. We don't like to see such treaties weakened. Those who seek to exert pressure on us, should play their game cautiously and prudently. Undue pressures and isolations may likely lead into unexpected reactions.

The latest report of the Director General of the IAEA (28 August 2003) confirms our stated transparency and full cooperation to help clarify the remaining questions. Iran has provided all the information requested by the IAEA, offered access to requested sites and allowed environmental sampling. Iran has indeed voluntarily implemented provisions of the Additional Protocol since some information submitted during last six months and the accesses granted, samples taken are beyond our present obligation under the safeguards agreements (INFCIRC/153)

The continuation of the full cooperation with the IAEA depends essentially on avoiding politicization of the situation. President Khatami is doing his utmost to ensure that this positive process is sustained. We need your support in maintaining a helpful international climate so that we will be able to convince our public opinion that our course of action is the correct course and will lead to results.

The report is provisional. It is non-conclusive because it awaits further exchanges with the IAEA and test results and analysis of the information. It is advisable to move through this IAEA Session with a procedural statement so that there will be sufficient time and proper environment to conclude these matters with the IAEA and achieve satisfactory results.

We will try to come to conclusion on our negotiations over the Protocol with the IAEA. What will help us tremendously is if we can find ways to reassure the authorities and the public here that there will not be intrusion into unrelated matters and places and attempts to undermine our integrity.

According to the provisions of the NPT, each state party has inalienable right for peaceful use of nuclear energy. The right and obligation need to be balanced.

Being under severe unjustified sanctions on the one hand and following a policy of moving towards transparency beyond our safeguard obligations on the other, left us no choice other than taking every cautionary measure to build necessary domestic consensus to make our cooperation with the Agency an irreversible path.

As far as the enrichment activities are concerned we do notice that it has caused some ambiguities. We reiterate in this respect that we are fully prepared to take remedial action wherever necessary and we will not hesitate to discuss and agree on such actions with the IAEA when the time comes. We are prepared to do what is necessary to assure that our peaceful program and our enrichment activity will remain peaceful.

We reiterate that our commitment for full cooperation with the IAEA is firm and solid. We need to work together that this commitment will not have to be overturned under public pressure. At this stage, it is important to maintain consensus at this Board meeting and avoid unhealthy political moves. We all have to try to keep the technical issues under the consideration by the IAEA to be kept in this Agency, which is the sole relevant international body. We will continue to keep interested states well informed and updated and hope to continue to benefit from a fruitful consultations.

Politicizing the technical issue of nuclear activities of Iran has created an environment that some political factions, parliamentarians and intellectuals have expressed concerns about acceptance of additional obligations under the protocol and raised the issue of the withdrawal from the NPT.

We appreciate that the agency's focus of safeguards activities in Iran has always remained on core issues with a manifestation of respect of its safeguards obligation to the Agency under NPT and its sovereignty and in this regard we have so far never seen any indulgence in extraneous matters which are outside the purview of Iran's NPT obligations and Agency's mandate.

Finally, Madame Chairperson my delegation would like to sincerely thank the NAM member states for their vivid support.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.