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Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)

Report by the Director General

1. This report of the Director General to the Board of Governors and, in parallel, to the United Nations Security Council (Security Council), is on the Islamic Republic of Iran's (Iran's) implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on activities related to research and development (R&D) on uranium metal production. It provides an update on developments since the Director General's previous reports.[1]

Activities related to R&D on Uranium Metal Production

2. As previously reported,[2] on 16 December 2020, Iran provided the Agency with an updated design information questionnaire (DIQ) for the Fuel Plate Fabrication Plant (FPFP) in Esfahan in which Iran indicated that it would start R&D activities on the production of uranium metal using natural uranium, before proceeding to produce uranium metal enriched to up to 20% U-235 for fuel for the Tehran Research Reactor. The DIQ set out a three-stage process to be conducted at FPFP involving the conversion of: UF_6 to UF_4; UF_4 to uranium metal;[3] and uranium metal to uranium silicide (U_3Si_2).

3. Also as previously reported, in January 2021, Iran informed the Agency that pursuant to steps taken by Iran to reduce its commitments under the JCPOA "there is no limitation on R&D activities" and that

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[1] GOV/2020/51, GOV/INF/2020/16, GOV/INF/2020/17, GOV/INF/2021/1, GOV/INF/2021/2, GOV/INF/2021/3, GOV/INF/2021/8, GOV/INF/2021/9 and GOV/INF/2021/10.

[2] GOV/INF/2021/3, para.5.

[3] JCPOA, 'Annex I – Nuclear-related measures', paras 24 and 26.

the "modification and installation of the relevant equipment for the mentioned R&D activities have been already started".[4]

4. On 2 February 2021, the Agency verified the receipt of 265 g of natural UF_4 at FPFP from Iran's Uranium Conversion Facility. On 8 February 2021, the Agency verified 3.6 g of uranium metal, which had been produced from 13 g of the aforementioned natural UF_4 in a laboratory experiment conducted at FPFP on 6 February 2021.

[4] GOV/INF/2021/3, para.8.