

Information Circular

INFCIRC/1299

Date: 12 June 2025

General Distribution

Original: English

Joint Statement by several Member States on Agenda Item 6(f) "NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran"

1. On 11 June 2025, during the 1768th session of the Board of Governors, the Resident Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of the Republic of Belarus, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, requested that the attached Joint Statement be published as an INFCIRC.
2. As requested, the Statement is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.

Joint Statement by

Republic of Belarus, People's Republic of China, Republic of Cuba, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Nicaragua, Russian Federation, and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

before the IAEA Board of Governors – June 2025

on the Agenda Item 6(f) «NPT Safeguards Agreement with the I.R. of Iran»

Madam Chair,

Allow me to deliver the following Joint Statement on behalf of Republic of Belarus, People's Republic of China, Republic of Cuba, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Nicaragua, Russian Federation, and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

We recall Iran's long-standing commitment to nuclear non-proliferation as the State Party to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), while all other parties should fully respect Iran's right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a State Party to the NPT. We therefore highly appreciate Director General Grossi's visit to Tehran on 16 April 2025 and recognize continued cooperation and interaction between Iran and the IAEA Secretariat.

We welcome the Joint Statement of the Beijing Meeting between China, Russia, and Iran issued on March 14, 2025, in which the three countries reiterated that political and diplomatic engagement and dialogue based on the principle of mutual respect remains the only viable and practical option and stressed the necessity for all States to refrain from any action that undermines the technical, objective and impartial work of the IAEA.

Regarding the report of the Director General entitled «NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran» (GOV/2025/25) it is important to underline that the so-called «comprehensive and updated assessment» contained therein was not produced upon the initiative of the Director General but rather imposed on him by politically motivated and unconsensual resolution of the November session of the Board of Governors.

We note that the report states that the Agency implements a large verification effort in Iran commensurate with Iran's nuclear fuel cycle and activities and Iran continues to cooperate with the Agency. It is clear from the report that all remaining safeguards issues belong to the past of before 2003. In this context it is worth reminding that in its resolution

of December 2015 (GOV/2015/72) the Board decided to close all past and present outstanding issues.

We also note that Iran and the Secretariat both exerted efforts to clarify the outstanding issues. We hope this interaction and engagement will continue on the basis of professionalism, objectivity and impartiality without political pressure and interference from third parties. The Secretariat should take into account and analyze the evidence and versions presented by Iran with a view to find a solution. In this context, we draw your attention to the explanatory note submitted by Iran, circulated as document INFCIRC/1297, which merits careful consideration and due attention by the Secretariat and all Member States.

Regarding the draft resolution proposed by the United States, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, we would like to underscore that Director General's report does not say that Iran may be in non-compliance with its obligations under Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. Nor does it assert that the Agency is not able to verify that there has been no diversion of nuclear material; It is also worth noting that the Director General does not seek any action from the Board. Therefore, the claims in the draft resolution concerning Iran's alleged non-compliance, as well as the conclusion regarding the Agency's inability, lack both factual and legal basis.

We note that if the above improper claims conclusion are adopted by the Board, it risks taking the settlement of the issue outside the framework of the Agency. We therefore stress that, under the current circumstances, any hasty intervention by the UNSC would not help build confidence or bridge the differences among the relevant parties.

In view of the foregoing, we call upon all IAEA Member States to play a constructive role and resist any attempt to politicize the safeguards issues. In this regard, we call upon all responsible Member States not to support the proposed draft resolution.

Distinguished colleagues;

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was agreed upon in 2015 and endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, embodies more than a decade of diplomatic efforts by all parties concerned. The United States' unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA is the root cause of the current predicament.

We are of the strong view that the UNSC Resolution 2231 remains valid and shall be implemented by all States. As we are approaching the Termination Day of the JCPOA, all efforts shall be made in line with the UNSCR 2231 to ensure that what the international community has invested for several years would not be simply overlooked. We urge E3/EU and US to fully implement all the provisions of the UNSCR 2231, including its respective timelines.

The evolution of the situation has made it clear that confrontation and pressure are not conducive to resolve difference, only dialogue, constructive diplomatic engagement and political will can provide mutually beneficial results. With this in mind, we take note the decision of the United States to return to dialogue with Iran and express our sincere hope that Washington is true in its intentions to seek a lasting political solution that will stand the test of time.

We emphasize that after the time frames envisaged in the JCPOA and UNSCR 2231, the Iranian nuclear program will be treated in the same manner as that of any other Non-Nuclear Weapon State Party to the NPT.

It would be appreciated if this Statement is published as an INFCIRC.