

Committee: Disarmament Committee

Issue: Non-Proliferation in Iran

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Position: President Chair of Disarmament Committee

Iran is suspected and accused of not complying with the Non-Proliferation Treaty by being dishonest about its nuclear programs and by seeking ways to build nuclear bombs. Iran argues that their nuclear activity is rightfully correct and stresses that its nuclear programs are for peaceful purposes only.



bordering countries

3. Location of Iran in the Middle East

Introduction

The Islamic Republic of Iran (hereby referred to as Iran) is situated in the Middle East and has an area of 1,648,195 square kilometers with a population of more than 69 million, which has doubled over the last three decades. It is bordered by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan and Caspian Sea in the north, Afghanistan and Pakistan in the east, Turkey and Iraq in the west and Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman in the south.

Iran is a member of the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** and other treaties regarding weapons of mass destruction, such as 'Biological Weapons

Conventions' and 'Chemical Weapons Conventions'.

Iran's nuclear programs became public in 2002, when their secret activity involving uranium enrichment plants and heavy water reactors were revealed by an opposition group. The UN sent the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** to inspect Iran and its situation. The Iranian government agreed and allowed for the inspection to take place as they believed their nuclear activities were solely for peaceful purposes. However, the IAEA was unable to confirm that Iran's nuclear programs were solely for peaceful purposes and it suspected Iran of developing nuclear bombs.



4. Iran's nuclear sites and facilities

Since then, the US and its Europeans' allies have been trying to stop Iran's nuclear enrichment of uranium as they are concerned over the security and safety of the world. They impose sanctions and oil tax on Iran as punishment to their response towards the nuclear situation. These sanctions imposed upon Iran have affected its civilians significantly as they face rising costs of living and other issues affecting the economy and their everyday lives.

The US argues that certain countries should not be allowed to possess nuclear weapons as it is dangerous. This is a concept known as '*mutually assured destruction*', a concept that discourages countries from partaking in war as they both fear the destructive

consequences of nuclear weapons will equally annihilate both nations. However, this is not the case between the US and Iran. The US fears that if Iran develops nuclear weapons, then it may use these nukes against US, Israel and other nations. Furthermore, they fear that Iran may sell their nuclear weapons to terrorist groups.

The **IAEA** referred Iran to the UN Security Council for failing to comply with the **NPT** Safeguard Agreements. The Security Council has adopted six resolutions since, requiring Iran to stop enriching uranium by ways such as imposing sanctions. However, the issue could not be resolved and Iran's nuclear program still imposes threats to nations.

Definition of Key Terms

Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are destructively explosive devices which are capable of destroying cities and even regions.

Nuclear Proliferation

Nuclear Proliferation is the spread of nuclear weapons amongst all nations. Naturally, many nations believe that an increase in nuclear weapons will increase the likelihood of nuclear warfare. However, it is believed that nuclear proliferation could, at the same time, act as prevention against future acts of aggression due to mutually assured destruction. The NPT addresses this issue by promoting complete nuclear disarmament over nuclear proliferation.

Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

The **NPT** is an international treaty that came into force in the 1970s. It aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons by calling for the disarmament of

nuclear weapons and weapons technology. It also promotes peaceful nuclear energy. The NPT does approve of nuclear programs which are for peaceful power generation purposes. A total of 190 countries have signed the Treaty including the 5 permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States of America: all who have nuclear weapons). The only countries with nuclear weapons that have not signed the NPT are India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (or also commonly referred to as the **IAEA**) was established in 1957 and is a non-governmental agency that is in charge of atomic energy, and more specifically to this case: nuclear energy. It promotes the peaceful methods and usage of nuclear energy, while ensuring that nuclear weapons are prohibited in order to impede possible nuclear warfare.

This organization is independent of the United Nations but is an important contributor to the UN General Assemblies and the Security Council. Its Director General is Yukiya Amino and its annual meeting, the 57th such General Conference IAEA meeting, took place in Vienna in late September 2013. The issues discussed at this meeting included the crisis in Iran, as well as the situation in North Korea.

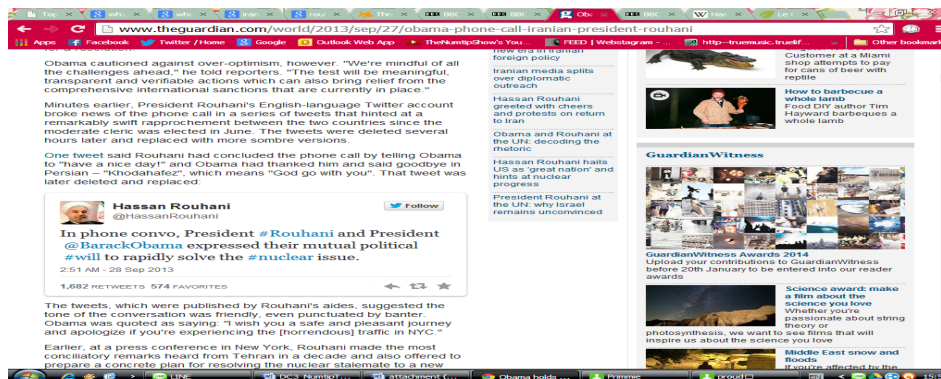
How does Iran justify its refusal to obey the Security Council resolutions?

Iran hid their program for 18 years, so the Security Council says that until Iran's peaceful intentions can be fully established, it should stop enrichment and other nuclear activities.

Iran has said it is simply doing what it is allowed to do under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which allows signatory states to enrich uranium to be used for peaceful purposes such as fuel for power generation and medical research. It argues that to date, there has been no evidence to say that Iran's nuclear programmes are not peaceful and that all the accusations made against Iran are assumptions made by other nations.

The UN requires states with nuclear programmes to remain under inspection by the IAEA. Iran is under inspection, although not under the strictest rules and conditions as Iran would not allow it.

In 2013, Iran had a new president, Hassan Rouhani. Iran under Rouhani's power is more open to talk to the US and other countries about their nuclear programmes. Iran appears to be more willing to comply with the US and the UN. Rouhani believes that Iran's nuclear programmes are for peaceful purposes, but he is willing to discuss peacefully in order to end the long conflicts with other nations regarding this issue.



5. A tweet made by Rouhani's official Twitter account in English regarding the phone call with President Obama. The tweet was published by Rouhani's personal assistance.

Iran's Nuclear Timeline

Date	Description of event
1967	US helped Iran launched its nuclear program as part of the “Atoms for Peace” program.
January 1979	Iran had an Islamic Revolution which ended their diplomatic relationship with the US. The new Iranian government cancels their contract with the US to build two nuclear power plants at Bushehr, city on the Gulf coast of Iran. Iran closed their nuclear program.
1984	At the height of the war with Iraq, Iran changes their mind about the nuclear program and signs a deal with German partners to complete Bushehr’s power plants.
January 1995	Iran signs deal with Russia to build new light-water reactors at Bushehr.
August 2002	Iran's secret nuclear program is revealed by a rebel group which exposes the existence of the enrichment plant in Natanz and the heavy-water plant in Arak. Iran agrees to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
October 2003	Iran makes an agreement with the UK, France and Germany to suspend uranium enrichment and to accept IAEA inspections.
November 2004	The deal collapses but is revived at talks in Paris in which Iran promises once more to suspend uranium enrichment.
July 2005	US intelligence presents the IAEA with the contents of a stolen Iranian laptop that purported to show extensive experimentation with bomb

design. The laptop's provenance is unclear.

January 2006	Enrichment work at Natanz is restarted
December 2006	First round of UN sanctions approved
July 2008	US send a diplomat to six-nation talks with Iran for the first time, but they end in stalemate.
September 2009	US, UK and France announce the discovery of an underground enrichment plant at Fordow, Iran.
2013	Hassan Rouhani elected for the 7 th President of Iran. Rouhani encourages nations to discuss and reach a peaceful solution for Iran and its nuclear programmes.
October 2013	“Geneva Talks” regarding Iran’s nuclear programmes. The first round of talks between six-nation groups goes well. Iran agreed to temporarily freeze key parts of their nuclear programmes in exchange with lower economic sanctions. However, this deal is only for 6 months.

Major Parties involved and their views

Israel

Israel is widely believed to have the only nuclear arsenal in the Middle East, but has never confirmed nor denied it possesses nuclear weapons. Israel is an ally of the US.

Israel is completely opposed to Iran’s nuclear programmes. Israel was against negotiations with Iran from the start. It warned world leaders against signing agreements

which would allow Iran to keep its nuclear capabilities and discouraged the easing of Iran's economic sanctions. Israel has even said that it is ready to act unilaterally to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, hinting at a potential military strike.

After the Geneva conference in 2013 which allowed Iran's sanctions to be eased, Israel said that the world has become "a much more dangerous place because the most dangerous regime in the world made a significant step in obtaining the most dangerous weapons in the world."

There are theories that Israel opposed Iran's nuclear programmes because they wish to continue being the nuclear monopoly in the Middle East.

United States of America

Although the US originally helped Iran start their nuclear program, they cut their diplomatic relationship in 1979.

The US trade embargo on Iran was initially imposed in 1995 by then-US President Bill Clinton, in response to what he called Iranian state sponsorship of "terrorism" and its "hostility" to the Middle East peace process. US sanctions have, however, been tightened in recent years, as the US attempts to leverage the economic impact of the sanctions as part of its prevention-rather-than-containment strategy.

Recently, the situation between US and Iran is improving; although US must ensure to maintain their alliance with Israel while trying to gain Iran's trust.

As mentioned earlier, under the ruling of Iran's new president, Rouhani, Iran has been more willing to talk to nations. In September 2013, Rouhani and the US president, Obama, had a phone call, breaking the silence between Iran and US since the Iran Revolution in 1979. The phone call suggests that a hopeful solution for Iran's nuclear programmes could be reached.

European Nations

They follow US's lead on relation with Iran. EU countries maintain economic sanctions against Iran, for example, and imposed restrictions on trade and contact with the state. Their ban on Iran's major export, crude oil, has affected Iran's economy significantly.

China

Although China is usually against the idea of European nations ordering or controlling other countries, China does support the EU's actions and the UN's resolutions regarding Iran's nuclear programmes.

Sudan

Sudan passionately supports Iran's nuclear programmes and also stands firmly against Israel.

IAEA's report on Iran

<http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/Others/infcirc214.pdf>

Iran and IAEA's safeguard agreement which went into force in 1974; keeping in mind that there have been significant changes to Iran's nuclear programmes and the power authorities in Iran since.

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Picture of the “1.Iran flag” and “2.Location of Iran”

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Picture of “3.Iran’s neighboring countries”

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Picture of “4.Iran’s nuclear sites and facilities”

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Picture 5. “Rouhani’s tweet”

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