



Global Nuclear Governance: Actors, Policies and Issues

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Facts & Figures

on

Iran' Nuclear Policies & Activities

By


Ambassador Soltanieh




In the Name of God

Why Islamic Republic of Iran has not and is not pursuing nuclear weapons?


1-Had Iran the intention to move towards possession of nuclear weapons, it would have withdrawn from the NPT after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution,



2-The founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late Imam Khomeini said “... ***if they continue to make huge atomic weapons and so forth, the world may be pushed into destruction and major loss will afflict nations. Everybody, wherever he is, the writers, intellectuals and scholars and scientists throughout the world should enlighten people of this danger, so that the masses of people will stand up vis-à-vis these two powers themselves and prevent the proliferation of these arms.***”



3-Based on a fatwa, or religious decree, of Iran's Supreme Leader, nuclear weapons are forbidden. This principle was reflected explicitly at the opening statement of the 16th NAM Summit in Tehran, on August 30th 2012: ***“I stress that the Islamic Republic has never been after nuclear weapons and that it will never give up the right of its people to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes..”***




Our motto is: ***“Nuclear energy for all and nuclear weapons for none.”*** We will insist on each of these two precepts, and we know that breaking the monopoly of certain Western countries on production of nuclear energy in the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is in the interest of all independent countries, including the members of the Non-Aligned Movement”



4-In spite of its technical capabilities and 100,000 victims of chemical weapons as the result of Saddam's attacks using deadly chemical agents, Iran did not use any chemical agent due to religious and moral commitments.

5-The experiences of the past decades have proved that nuclear weapons have no utility, and on the contrary creates vulnerability.




6-Iran is negotiating with the P5+1, which includes five nuclear weapon states, on the basis of mutual respect and on an equal basis. If Iran hypothetically decides to manufacture nuclear weapons, it would not be able to compete with the nuclear weapon states, which possess over 20,000 nuclear warheads. As far as the number of nuclear weapons is concerned, dealing with the mentioned five nuclear powers would then be under disadvantage and a weaker position, rather than on equal footing as is the case now. ***Therefore, it would be a strategic mistake for Iran to go for nuclear weapons.***




Why Iran is pursuing nuclear technology?

Nuclear technology is the meeting point of the advanced and highest standard of various branches of science and engineering. Embarking on nuclear power plants or other applications requires high caliber experts. Thus, universities have to educate a new generation coping with high standards due to the sensitivity of application of nuclear energy, and specifically safety and security concerns. **Therefore, nuclear technology leads the country to be an advanced one.**



Why Iran has no option but to have indigenous enrichment?

- 1- After the revolution, the United States did not deliver the fuel for Tehran Research Reactor, which produces radioisotopes for medical purposes; neither it paid back over 2 million dollars received according to the contract.
- 2- French enrichment company, Eurodif, did not give even a gram of its product to Iran, despite the fact that Iran is 10% shareholder in this company and it has given one billion dollars loan at crucial time to this company;
- 3- Germany left Bushehr Power Plant incomplete,

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- 4- The Committee of Assurances of Supply (CAS) was established by the IAEA in order to prepare a legally binding instrument to assure the supply of nuclear fuel, under the supervisor of the IAEA to its member states.
 - 5- The committee collapsed in 1987 after 7 years of negotiation due to lack of cooperation of the industrial countries
 - 6- The United Nations Conference on Promotion of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (PUNE) failed in 1987 in Geneva after about 10 years negotiations in Vienna, New York and Geneva



Why Iran considers the resolutions of the Board of Governors and the UNSC illegal?

1- According to article XII.C of the Agency's Statute: if the inspectors recognize the "non-compliance", they shall report to the Director General, then the DG shall report to the Board of Governors. The Board then reports to the Member States and the UNSC. In the case of Iran, no such procedure has ever been pursued. A few Board members, after about three years, when the nuclear issue was raised in the Board in 2003, claimed that there was "non-compliance" before 2003.



The DG had however not used the legal phrase “non-compliance” but he used “failures” as used for other countries implementing the CSA. According to the CSA, after corrective measures issues are closed. The former DG clearly reported all corrective measures by Iran.

2- The article XII.C which Board of Governor’s resolutions referred to discusses “Recipient Member States” which have misused nuclear material received from the Agency. Iran had never received nuclear material referred to the relevant articles of the Statute.



3- According to the Statute and CSA: if the Agency finds out that nuclear material is diverted to military purposes, then the UNSC will be informed of that. All reports of the former and present DG have declared that there is no evidence of diversion of nuclear materials.

4- According to the CSA: if a Member State prevents inspectors from entering the country and the Agency is not able to conduct its verification activities, then the UNSC will be informed of this. All reports of the Director General since 2003 clearly declare that the Agency is able to continue its verification in Iran.




5- The resolutions against Iran by the EU3 from 2003 till 2006 recognized the suspension of enrichment by Iran as: non-legally binding, voluntary, and confidence building measure. Therefore, the resolution by the Board of Governors to refer Iran's nuclear file to the UNSC after Iran decided to stop voluntary suspension of the UCF activities was 100% in contravention with its own previous resolution. It is worth mentioning that when the EU3 proposed resolutions against Iran at the Board of Governors in 2006, with political motivation to get the UNSC involved in a technical issue belonging to the Agency, the enrichment activities in Natanz were under voluntary suspension.



Why and when did Iran decide to enrich uranium up to 20%?

Since the fuel of the Tehran Research Reactor for production of radiopharmaceutical isotopes was running out, Iran requested of the Agency in 2008 for help with acquiring the needed fuels, containing 20% enriched uranium, through potential suppliers. Lengthy negotiations with three countries – the United States, Russia, and France – under the auspices of the IAEA failed.



The great concession by Iran in response to the intermediary appeal by Brazil and Turkey(Iran's readiness for a swap of 1200 kgs of 3.5% enriched uranium, transferred to Turkey for 20% enriched fuel in return) was not only totally ignored, but a resolution was passed by the UN Security Council, which Turkey and Brazil voted against. Thousands of patients struggling with cancer and requiring radioisotopes were impatient with the stalemate. Therefore, Iran was left with no choice but to indigenously produce the required 20% enriched fuel for the Tehran Research Reactor.



Have the Western sanctions been effective in stopping or decreasing enrichment activities in Iran?

No. The reports of Director General prove that there is steady progress in enrichment activities including the number of installed centrifuge machines. Iran is manufacturing components locally.

Can a military attack stop uranium enrichment in Iran?

No. As confirmed by the IAEA in all reports by the Director General to the Board of Governors, Iran now masters enrichment technology. It is able to produce all components of centrifuge machines. Therefore, it can easily replace the damaged facilities.



What are the anticipated consequences of a military attack against Iran's nuclear installations?

Apart from strong reactions against the aggressor, as far as nuclear activities are concerned, it is a normal expectation that the Iranian Government shall face tremendous pressure to install centrifuges in more secure places. On the other hand, there is a possibility that the Iranian Parliament will force the Government to stop the Agency inspections or in a worse scenario withdraw from the NPT.



What are the legal status of threats of attack against Iran's nuclear installations?

According to the General Conference Resolution 533 of 1990, proposed by Iran, any attack or threat of attack against nuclear installation during operation or under construction constitutes a violation of the UN Charter, Agency statute and international law, and the UN Security Council has to act immediately. The General Conference in 2009 unanimously endorsed the said resolution. The 2012 NPT Review Conference also endorsed the said resolution by consensus.



Have the IAEA Board of Governors or UN Security Council condemned the continuous threat of attack on Iran's peaceful nuclear installations by the Israeli regime?


No. Although any attack or threat of attack is a clear violation of the resolution 533 of 1990, thus violation of UN Charter & IAEA Statute , and International Laws. According to the resolution 533 the UN Security Council has act upon it immediately. The IAEA & the UN have so far kept silent



Conclusion

The international community has to cope with the following undeniable facts:

- 1- The Islamic Republic of Iran has always officially declared that it has not and is not pursuing nuclear weapons based on religious commitments and strategic interests;
- 2- Iran has reiterated its full and firm commitment to its obligations under the NPT and the Agency's Safeguards Agreement (INFCIRC/214);



3- No smoking gun has been found in Iran after over 7500 man-days of most robust inspections and over 100 unannounced inspections with short notice, mostly less than 2 hours, which is unprecedented in the history of the IAEA;

4- Iran has made great achievements in regards to the nuclear fuel cycle, and now masters enrichment technology with a capability of producing all components of centrifuges indigenously;



5- While Iran shall never give up its undeniable legal right to peaceful uses of nuclear technology, as stipulated in the statute of the IAEA and the NPT, it has however spared no effort in removing any ambiguities through the IAEA and dialogue with concerned states;

6- The present unique opportunity has to be seized in order to put an end to the decade-long artificial nuclear crisis and open a new chapter of long-term strategic engagement with Iran, the most reliable and stable country, partner, in the region.



Thank You For Your
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