

Committee: Disarmament and International Security (GA1)

Issue: Reviewing the implementation of the Iran Nuclear Deal

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Position: President

Personal Introduction

My name is Alexandrou Eva and I am going to be the President of the Disarmament and International Security Committee in the 4th ATSMUN. This will be my 9th conference and my 3rd time chairing. Throughout this MUN journey I have acquired experience, knowledge and great friends. My role in this conference is to assist you do the same thing. I will try to be conducive to the expansion of your mental horizons, to the creation of long-lasting friendships and to your -temporary or not- transformation to diplomats. I can also assure you that, along with Tonia and Valia, my fellow chairs, we will attempt to make the 4th ATSMUN a memorable experience for all of you and help you enjoy it as much as possible. If you need anything during your preparation or have any questions over anything regarding the conference, feel free to communicate with me via e-mail (evoulalex@hotmail.com) or on my Facebook account (Eva Alexandrou)

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

This Study Guide is to delineate the issue regarding the *Iran Nuclear Deal (IND)*. The deal is of great significance as it ensures that Iran won't develop a nuclear weapon. Iran is a country in the Middle East which is currently engaged in several wars. It is clear that should the republic of Iran develop nuclear weapons, the situation in the Middle East will probably get out of control. Apart from that, given the recent decision of Donald Trump to withdraw the USA from the deal, its implementation faces multiple stipulations which need to be tackled immediately, so as for the deal to be effective and serve its cause.

In a nutshell, the IND is an agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the P5+1 countries (USA, UK, France, Russia, China, Germany) and the European Union (EU), which was reached in 2015 in order for the long-lasting tension over Iran's alleged efforts to develop nuclear weapons to be settled. The main cause of this tension was the "Nuclear program of Iran" which was launched in 1957. Although Iran has never been found to possess nuclear weapons and has officially repudiated them by signing relevant treaties, its nuclear program (and more specifically its facilities and its productive capabilities) is deemed as a potential threat to international security. As a result, economic sanctions were imposed to Iran from both states, such as the USA, and international organisations such as the UN. With the IND, Iran agreed to limit its nuclear activity and allow its inspection by international bodies, in return for the abrogation of the aforementioned economic sanctions.

During our cooperation, we will attempt to find the solution to two main issues

- How can we ensure that what is outlined in the IND is respected and implemented?
- How can we mitigate the tension caused by the Iran's Nuclear Deal?

IMPORTANT NOTE: This Study Guide contains data until the 24th of July 2018. In order for you to be informed on new developments, I would suggest the site <https://www.theguardian.com/world/iran-nuclear-deal>

Either way I am going to fill you in on any further developments prior to the lobbying process

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Nuclear weapon

A nuclear weapon in general is an explosive device which uses nuclear reactions such as fission and/or fusion in order to unleash its power. It splits atoms to release a thousand times more energy than a conventional explosive device. What is really interesting is the process needed in order for such a weapon to be developed. I would highly suggest that you read the following article regarding the development of nuclear weapons;

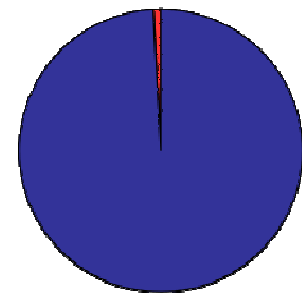
<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20120607-nuclear-weapons-in-ten-steps>

Foreign Direct Investment

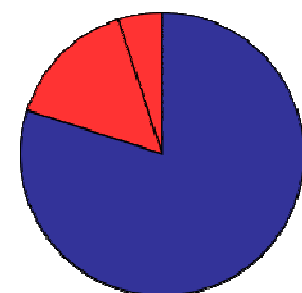
An investment by a company based in one country, in an actual operating business, including real physical capital assets (like buildings, machinery and equipment), located in another country. ¹

Uranium and enrichment, yellowcake and centrifuge

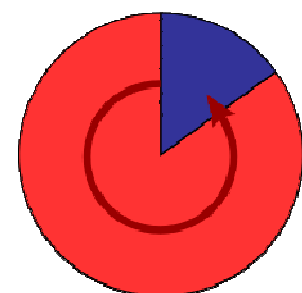
Uranium is a chemical element whose isotopes are of paramount importance for nuclear energy. The main uranium isotope in nature is ²³⁸U in a percentage of 99,3%. However, another isotope, ²³⁵U (almost 0,7% in nature) is really useful for nuclear technology. Thus, it was significant to find a way to increase its amount, ²³⁸U needs to undergo enrichment. Uranium can be low enriched (LEU) and high enriched (HEU).



Natural uranium (NU)
>99.2% U-238
≤0.72% U-235



Low-enriched uranium (LEU)
(reactor grade)
<20% U-235
(typically 3-5% U-235)



Highly enriched uranium (HEU)
(weapons grade)
20-85% U-235
(≥85% U-235)

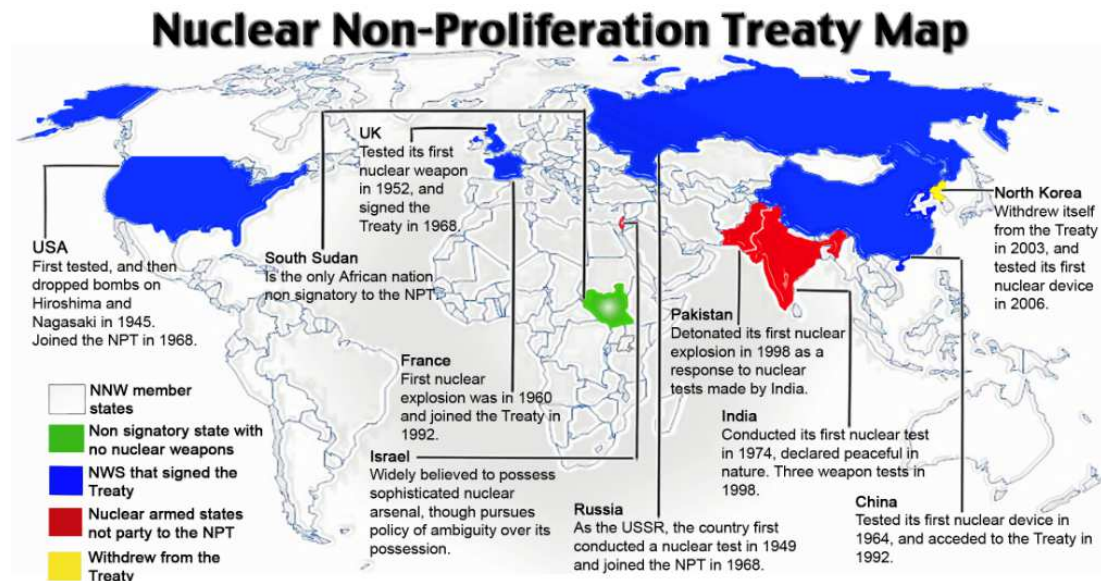
¹ That definition came from Jim Stanford's "ECONOMICS FOR EVERYONE" online glossary

The former is primarily used for civil purposes while the latter is considered “weapons-grade”

Yellowcake is a uranium concentrated powder produced by leaching natural Uranium and treating it in a chemical way. It is a very significant product as it can be stockpiled and used for uranium enrichment processes.

Non-Proliferation treaty

The Non Proliferation Treaty aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament. The Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the IAEA, which also plays a central role under the Treaty in areas of technology transfer for peaceful purposes.²



The I.A.E.A and the I.A.E.A. Board of Governors

The IAEA (The International Atomic Energy Agency), as it is explained in its official site (<https://www.iaea.org/about/overview>) is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and

² This definition comes from the official IAEA site. The whole NPT article can be found in <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs/1970/infcirc140.pdf>

security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The Board of Governors is one of the two policy-making bodies of the IAEA, along with the annual General Conference of IAEA Member States. The Board examines and makes recommendations to the General Conference on the IAEA's financial statements, programme and budget. It considers applications for membership, approves safeguards agreements and the publication of the IAEA's safety standards. It also appoints the Director General of the IAEA, with the approval of the General Conference. The Board generally meets five times per year: in March and June, twice in September (before and after the General Conference) and in November.³

Ballistic missiles

Apart from the weapon itself, the term “nuclear weapon” also refers to the vehicle used to deliver the nuclear attack. Without them, the warhead would never be able to get anywhere quickly. That’s why during nuclear weapons’ inspections, it’s these vehicles that are monitored, as the warheads can easily be concealed.

The most worth mentioning vehicle is the ballistic missile (others are: other types of **missiles**, **stealth bombs** and **fighter jets**). There are different types of ballistic missiles such as the ICBMs, the SLBMs and the SSBMs, operating underwater or in the air and able to transfer the bomb on an intercontinental level.

Atoms for Peace Program

Atom for peace is the title of a speech⁴ that the President of the USA delivered to the UN General Assembly in 1953. In his speech, Dwight D. Eisenhower condemned nuclear warfare but acknowledged the potential of the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Thus, he proclaimed that the USA would endorse the development of plans whereby peaceful use of atomic energy is expedited. As a result, the USA launched a homonym program which would serve that commitment; it supplied hospitals, schools and research institutions with equipment, infrastructure and information.

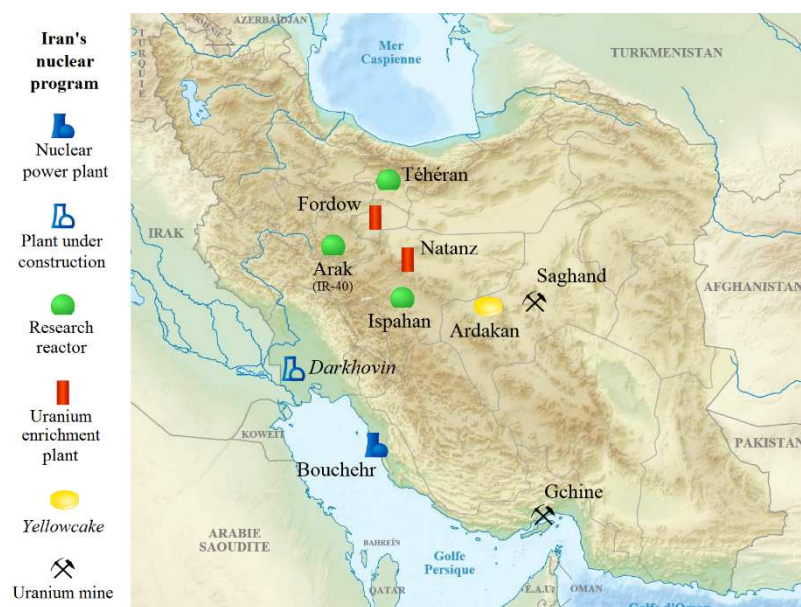
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nuclear Program of Iran

In 1957 the Islamic Republic of Iran launched its Nuclear Program, under the auspices of the “Atoms for Peace” Program. The Nuclear Program included two uranium mines, several uranium processing facilities, a research reactor and some research sites and institutions. The Nuclear program (INP) was supported by some Western European countries and the USA

³ This definition comes from t

⁴ You can find the whole [speech](#)



until 1979, when the Iranian Revolution took place, as the government that emerged was considered to be hostile and untrustworthy by the global community . In 1990s, after several agreements, Russia began to assist Iran’s program. However, in 2002, it was revealed that Iran was carrying out a clandestine Uranium enrichment program for almost 18 years. That revelation raised suspicions as regards to the intentions of the program. Since then, many investigations have been carried out by the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) but despite the fact that no credible evidence of the development of nuclear weapons has been reported, the doubts about Iran’s nuclear activities never ceased to exist. In addition to that, in 2006 Iran failed to comply with the obligations deriving from the Non-Proliferation treaty which was another nail in the coffin of the INP. The reaction of the global community was immediate.

Sanctions

In the aftermath of the aforementioned revelations, many countries and international bodies started negotiating with Iran in order to prevent the development of a nuclear weapon and to ensure that Iran’s nuclear activity is in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Apart from these arduous negotiations, various sanctions were imposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran from both the UN and individual states.

- United Nations’ mandated Sanctions (Resolutions from the Security Council)

	Date	Resolution Number	Content/Sanctions	
1	31/07/2006	1696	Demand for the cessation of Iran’s enrichment program (IEP)/Threat for sanctions	
2	23/12/2006	1737	Mandatory suspension of IEP/ Cessation of the supply and the support in general of INP and sanctions on Iranian entities	
3	24/03/2007	1747	Arms embargo	
4	03/03/2008	1803	Mandatory inspections on Iranian banks, ships, aircrafts, business activities	on-
5	27/09/2008	1835	Reaffirmation of previous resolutions	Unite
6	09/06/2010	1929	Tightening of arms embargo, further financial impediments and mandatory inspections by a panel of experts	d
7	09/06/2011	1984	Reaffirmation of the 1929 resolution	Natio
8	07/06/2012	2049	Reaffirmation of the 1929 resolution	ns’
9	20/07/2015	2231	Conditional suspension of all UN sanctions	mand

• N

The main sources of these sanctions were the USA and the European Union. Sanction were also imposed to Iran from China, Australia, Canada, India, Israel, Japan, South Korea and Switzerland. These sanctions were basically economic restrictions on various sectors, such as the arms trade, the energy industry, oil exports, the Foreign Direct Investment, the insurance industry and the banking activities. Just for the record, the sanctions that concerned solely the oil business cost Iran 4-8 billion US dollars per month! From 2012 to 2016, the sanctions cost the country approximately 160 billion US dollars in oil revenue. Since the sanctions were lifted, Iran exports almost 600.000 barrels of petroleum daily. These numbers prove the significance of the sanctions posed at Iran.

Interim Agreement and Negotiations

After long-lasting and fruitless negotiations, on the 24th of November 2013, the P5+1 countries and Iran reached an agreement, the “Geneva Interim Agreement” (officially known as “Joint Plan of Action”). Its implementation begun on the 20th of January 2014. According to it, the economic sanctions imposed to Iran would be decreased, as long as its nuclear activity was (temporarily) decreased as well. Nevertheless, this was a short-term agreement, and the countries involved were to reach a long-term one through further negotiations. The JPA would expire after six months⁵. The stipulations⁶ of the agreement in a nutshell were:

- Restrictions on the Uranium enrichment process and in the application of several processing methods
- Ban of the creation of any new nuclear facilities
- Compulsory share of data regarding nuclear activities and details of the Arak nuclear power plant
- Compliance with IAEA protocols regarding the nuclear proliferation

Following the Joint Plan of Action (JPA), representatives of the P5+1 countries and of Iran kept negotiating so as to reach a permanent agreement. The negotiations lasted for almost 2 years until on the 2nd of April 2015, the parties reached an agreement on a framework deal.

Iran Nuclear Deal⁷

On the 14th of July 2015 the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the Iran Nuclear Deal was announced. On the 20th of July 2015, the United Nations Security Council, unanimously adopted resolution 2231⁸, which came into effect in the 20th of October 2015, and endorsed the IND. After the 16th of January 2016, the provisions of the Security Council resolutions 1696, 1737,



⁵ Initially, it was supposed to apply for six months. The first step would be time-bound, with a duration of 6 months during which all parties will work to maintain a “spirit of faith”. However, its duration was extended at first until the 24th of November 2014 and then again until the 1st of July 2015, as the parties failed to reach a permanent agreement. Its application finished on the 2nd of April 2015 when the IND was adopted.

⁶ You can find the whole Joint Plan of Action on <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/jpoa.pdf>

⁷ You can find the whole Iran nuclear deal document on <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2165388-iran-deal-text.html>

⁸ You can find the whole resolution 2231 on https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2231.pdf

1747, 1803, 1835, 1929, 2224 were ended (there was the possibility of re-imposition however in case of the IND conditions weren't respected). The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action consists of 109 pages with several annexes. The main terms of the Deal are:

- The reduction/limitation of the use of several techniques such as centrifuge in the processing of nuclear energy
- Significant reduction on the low-enriched and medium-enriched uranium stockpile
- No new enrichment facilities could be built for 10 years
- Research on enrichment allowed solely at the Natanz facility, with many limitations for 8 years
- Modernisation of the Arak heavy water research reactor and limits on the use of its products
- Conversion of several reactors to research centres
- Implementation of the Additional Protocol of the Non-Proliferation Treaty
- Intensification of the INP monitoring by IEAE. More specifically:
 - Constant surveillance of Iran's nuclear activity with the use of modern technology
 - Augmentation of the number of inspectors assigned to monitor the INP
 - If an IEAE inspectors suspects that a nuclear-related activity is taking place in a non-declared site, they may demand access. Diplomatic negotiations are bound to take place and, if an agreement is not reached, then the Joint Commission is bound to step in and, if the simple majority decides so (5/8 votes in favour), sanctions are to be re-imposed to Iran

With resolution 2231, whose role is to endorse the IND, the UN Security Council was to undertake specific tasks related to the implementation of the deal, which briefly were:

- Monitor the implementation of the resolution
- Improve its implementation
- Provide States and organisations with information regarding the resolution, if asked
- Review any proposal from states or organisations to carry out arm or nuclear transactions with Iran
- Review and grant exemptions to the restrictions posed to Iran
- When receiving information for inconsistent to the 2231 resolution activities, investigate and act appropriately

Apart from the stipulations regarding Iran and its Nuclear Program, the countries that had imposed sanctions to Iran were to lift all of them. The UN mandated sanctions were to be lifted as well.

Results

With the aforementioned restrictions, the uranium stockpile allowed was enough for nuclear power but not for the development of nuclear weapon. However, the number of centrifuges left was insufficient for nuclear power but not for a nuclear weapon. This was a serious impediment to INP. In addition, as stated by a group of experts from Harvard

university, the time that Iran needed to develop a nuclear weapon increased significantly, from two months to approximately a year, with the current scientific data. However, there are certain issues that derive from the deal itself. First of all, many of the deal's provisions expire in 10, 15 or 25 years, a fact that renders the deal ephemeral according to many people, including the US president Donald Trump, who supports that in several years, Iran will be free to create a nuclear weapon. Furthermore, there is the fact that the IND does not cover at all the issue of Iranian ballistic missile program, which is the core matter that prevents IND's implementation. What also concerns the international community is Iran's involvement in several wars, in Syria, in Yemen, where nuclear weapons could be a major asset.

We must note that so far, the deal has prevented Iran from making a nuclear weapon. The accord has proven to be efficient. As the Islamic republic of Iran committed several (minor) technical violations of the treaty, the IAEA quickly detected them and Iran remedied them. The main issue is that the sanctions that were imposed to Iran, despite being lifted, have created major problems to Iran's social and economic status. Banking issues and lack of financial institutions are the main impediments to Iran's re-integration to the global society. However, Iran is recovering and is fully supportive of the IND.

As it will be explained later, in the 8th of May 2018, the USA withdrew from the deal and thus ceased its implementation.

MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED

P5+1 countries

As the P5+1 countries (apart from the USA whose role will be delineated afterwards) were the ones who actually signed the IND with the Islamic Republic of Iran, they fully support the deal and thus endorse its complete implementation. They promote the denuclearisation of Iran to the greatest point possible. More specifically

- **China:** After the announcement of the agreement, the Chinese foreign minister stated, among others that China contributed with a unique and constructive role to the agreement and will continuously make new contribution to the implementation of the deal with a responsible attitude.
- **Germany:** The chancellor Angela Merkel considers the agreement a success for international diplomacy while the Minister of Economy characterised it as a historic breakthrough. In the aftermath of the agreement, a German delegation (including the Minister of Economy) was sent to Iran to support economic relations with the country.
- **France:** Both the French President Francois Hollande and the minister of foreign affairs stated praised the agreement and committed to be extremely vigilant to its implementation.
- **Russia:** Both the president and the minister of foreign affairs welcomed the agreement and acknowledged its impact on international peace
- **UK:** The Prime Minister also praised the deal and recognised its contribution to both international peace and to Iran's economy. It is worth mentioning that the foreign secretary criticised Israel's negative attitude towards the agreement

The leaders of France, the UK and Germany, in a joint statement endorsed the IND even after the US president Donald Trump withdrew USA from it in 2018 and condemned that decision.



The United States of America

The role of the USA in the IND has been quite strange. The USA were the facilitator of the INP as it was launched under the auspices of the Atoms for Peace program. However, after the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the Iranian shah fell and the political authority changed hands. The government that arose was deemed as hostile and thus the USA imposed an embargo to Iran. Although these sanctions were lifted, in 1987 new ones were imposed due to the Iran's alleged support to international terrorism. These sanctions were extended and expanded after the revelation regarding the INP. In 2015, when the IND was signed, the US government lifted these sanctions, acting in accordance with what the deal stated. Obama stated after the agreement was announced that with the deal, every pathway to a nuclear weapon was cut off. Nevertheless, the Republican party stood against the deal and its delegates kept criticising it. On the 8th of May 2018, the US President Donald Trump stated that the USA would withdraw from the agreement as it was a "horrible, one-sided deal". While many parties such as **Israel, Bahrain, Yemen, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt** applauded that decision, many others such as **Iran, the EU, France, Germany, UK, Russia, China, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain and Switzerland** condemned it. President Trump also wishes to sanction all European companies that maintain economic relations with Iran. President Trump announced that:

- The USA nuclear sanctions would be reinstated
- The USA would impose new sanctions to Iran
- Nations and firms who do nuclear business with Iran would not have access to the US markets

The intention of the US policy is to force Iran to re-negotiate its nuclear program, under US terms. As a result, many EU companies stopped doing business with Iran, giving the opportunity to small Chinese ones (with no relations with the US markets) to begin doing so. Iran decided to keep supporting the agreement as well.

The European Union

The European Union, being a part of the agreement, also endorsed its implementation. For example, Donald Tusk, the president of the European Council praised as well the IND and explained that it could be a turning point Iran's relation with the international community. Another important fact is that, after D. Trump withdrew the USA from the IND, on the 17th of May 2018, the European Commission declared the (re-imposed) US sanctions against Iran illegal in the Europe and banned Europeans from conforming with them.

Canada

After the announcement of the agreement, Canada acknowledged the efforts of the P5+1 countries to moderate the tension caused by the INP. However, as actions are the ones that actually matter, as reported in Globe and Mail, Canada would maintain its sanctions to Iran in place while supporting IAEA efforts to supervise INP. Although the Prime Minister Stephen Harper was against the agreement, the new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his government, support it. As a result, since 2016, the majority of the Canadian sanctions against Iran have been lifted.

Israel

Israel has been one of the traditional enemies of Iran. After the agreement was announced, the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu characterised the deal "a bad mistake of historic proportions" while the Deputy Foreign Minister Stated that Israel would attempt to stop the agreement from being ratified by all means. The majority of Israelis were also negatively disposed towards the agreement.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Very briefly, all the above can be summed up in the following board

Date	Event
1957	Announcement of the INP
1979	Iranian civil war-problem with Iran's diplomatic relations
2002	Iran's clandestine Uranium program was revealed
2006-2010	Sanctions imposed to Iran
2013	Geneva Interim Agreement
2015	IND-Sanctions lifted/UNSC resolution 2231 supporting the deal
2018	Trump withdraws USA from IND

UN INVOLVEMENT

The UN has been involved to the INP for several years, either supporting it or trying to regulate it. Its involvement to the implementation of the IND is a different story however. The main actions it has taken towards that direction are:

- The 2231 Security Council resolution and the obligations that derive from it:
 - The SC itself has been monitoring and assessing the implementation of the deal, as outlined in a previous section of this Study Guide
 - The Secretary General is to report to the SC every 6 months regarding the IND implementation
 - The IAEA is to monitor the INP and report to the SC and the IAEA Board of Governors
- The UN Secretary General condemned the US decision to withdraw from the IND

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The I.N.D. was reached in order for the Iran to be re-integrated into the global community and its nuclear program to cease being a threat to international peace. So, throughout our debates, we need to find the optimal solutions which correspond to these two goals and are in accordance with the I.N.D. We must also take into account the USA factor. More specifically some possible solutions in broad terms would be

- As regards to Iran's re-integration

First of all, firms must be encouraged not to exclude Iran from their business activities, by being given motives. In addition, FDI must be encouraged as well while banking systems must be improved. Moreover, sanctions must be (completely or conditionally) lifted. In general, the level of Social cohesion must be increased

- As regards to the nuclear program itself

The surveillance programs need to be expanded. Use of modern technology is highly recommended for this purpose. What is also needed is adequate training of the inspectors. Also, bearing in mind the complete process that is needed for a nuclear weapon to be released, we ought to prevent the development of ballistic missiles and other such "vehicles" needed.

- Overall

In general, the development of alternative energy resources is recommended (so as for the -small- energy deficit of Iran due to the deal can be decreased). However, in our case there is no such need as Iran is one of the main oil exporters in the international market. What could be useful though is the promotion of a general denuclearisation.

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