



European Union

EU Statement on

Agenda item 7e: NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran IAEA Board of Governors

Vienna, 1-5 March 2021

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [Turkey[§], The Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Lichtenstein+, Norway+, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and San Marino.].
2. The European Union would like to thank the Director General for his report contained in document GOV/2021/15 on the NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Deputy Director General Aparo for the technical briefing on 25 February 2021.
3. The EU welcomes the Director General's comprehensive and timely update on the implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol in Iran. We commend the Director General and the Secretariat for their professional, objective, independent and impartial work in verifying Iran's safeguards obligations.
4. The EU also welcomes the fact that the IAEA evaluates all safeguards-relevant information available to it in line with standard practice and we encourage it to continue to do so. We underline that such comprehensive evaluation is essential in ascertaining that there are no indications of diversion of declared nuclear material from peaceful nuclear activities and no indications of undeclared nuclear material and activities in a State with a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.
5. The EU notes with deep concern that, after 18 months, Iran has still not provided full and technically credible explanations for the presence of nuclear material particles at the first location mentioned in the report. As a result, the IAEA still cannot exclude that undeclared nuclear material may have been present at this undeclared location and that such nuclear material may remain unreported by Iran under its NPT Safeguards Agreement. The EU is deeply concerned about

[§] Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

this lack of full and expeditious cooperation and urges Iran to clarify and resolve these issues without further delay.

6. Furthermore, we note with deep concern that Iran still has not answered the Agency's questions related to the second location mentioned in the report. The possible current location of the natural uranium in the form of a metal disc also remains to be clarified. We strongly encourage Iran to facilitate related verification activities without delay.
7. Finally, the EU notes that Iran also remains to provide answers to questions related to the presence of anthropogenic uranium particles at the third and fourth locations mentioned in the report, which has been indicated by the analytical results of the environmental samples taken by the Agency in August and September 2020.
8. The lack of progress to clarify these issues is unacceptable and a source of serious concern. Urgent clarification is needed. Our concern in this regard is augmented by the fact that, contrary to his previous reports on the subject, in his current report, the Director General was unable to conclude that the Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement. The EU, while welcoming the Director General's readiness to engage Iran in a proactive and focussed effort to break the impasse and clarify and resolve these issues without any further delay, urges Iran to immediately and actively cooperate with the Agency to clarify all pending issues.
9. The EU notes with deep concern Iran's decision, communicated in its 15 February 2021 letter to the Agency, to "stop the implementation of voluntary transparency measures as envisaged in the JCPOA as of 23 February 2021", including modified Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangements to Iran's Safeguards Agreement.
10. As stated in the report, implementation of the modified Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangements to Iran's Safeguards Agreement is a legal obligation under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and cannot be under any circumstances modified unilaterally. Furthermore, the EU considers Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with the Additional Protocol the current verification standard. The EU urges Iran to continue the implementation of the modified Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangements to its Safeguards Agreement and to resume implementation of all transparency measures as envisaged in the JCPOA, including the implementation of the Additional Protocol.
11. To conclude, Madame Chair, the EU reiterates its full support and trust in the IAEA for the fulfilment of its mandate under the NPT Safeguards Agreements. We expect the timely and full resolution of all outstanding issues.
12. The EU takes note of the report and looks forward that the Director General continues to report to the Board of Governors, as appropriate, and would welcome that this report is made public.

Thank you, Madam Chair.