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Abstract

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Simulating a Meeting of the Board of Governors

"Discussion on Iran's Civil Nuclear Program"

Introduction

The Committee simulates a meeting of the Board of Governors of an independent international organization, closely related to the United Nation's system, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

IAEA is broadly perceived as the world's center of cooperation in the nuclear field. Established in 1957, also known as the "*Atoms for Peace*" organization, IAEA's work is based on three pillars, as outlined throughout its Statute:

Nuclear Verification and Security, peaceful and safe use of Nuclear Energy and Technology Transfer.

In addition, according to IAEA's "mission statement", it is of utmost importance to assist its Member States in planning and using nuclear technologies for various peaceful purposes, such as the generation of electricity, as well as to facilitate the transfer of such technology in a sustainable way to developing Member States.

Furthermore, the IAEA supports countries to preserve and transfer nuclear knowledge through training, specialized publications, workshops and expert visits to sites and facilities. It is common knowledge that demonstrated high safety standards in nuclear facilities are crucial to sustain the future growth of nuclear technology. Needless to say that the IAEA strives for the achievement and maintenance of high levels of safety in applications of nuclear energy, as well as the protection of human health and the environment against ionizing radiation.

Another significant aspect to be mentioned is that the Agency verifies regularly through its inspection system that States comply with their commitments, under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NTP) and other non-proliferation agreements, to use nuclear material and facilities only for peaceful purposes.

Iran's Civil Nuclear Program

The IAEA was called upon to conduct research and provide assurances about Iran's nuclear program and activities for the last years. The International Community and the IAEA are deeply concerned about the nuclear program that the Islamic Republic of Iran had launched. Whereas Iran is a signatory State of the NTP, meaning that it is authorized to use nuclear power for civil purposes. The very debatable issue was that apart from the civil nuclear program, Iran was suspected to run a uranium enrichment program for military purposes.

According to a report of the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) of the United States, there was no evidence that Iran is currently running a nuclear weapons program for developing an atomic bomb. In particular, there was a suspect of Iran undergoing such activities until 2003. On that account, the Agency was charged with verifying Iran's compliance - or lack thereof - with international safeguards against nuclear-weapons proliferation. As a matter of fact Iran is continually assuring the International Community and IAEA of the peaceful nature of its program, especially seeking only to generate electricity. Furthermore, Iran claims that its declared nuclear research was and is completely in compliance with its right given by the NTP. It is evident that Iran has acquired considerable technical knowledge from enriching uranium in a "research and development" facility.

Although is it controversial if Iran has gained the adequate knowledge to construct nuclear weapons, the Security Council through its Resolution on December 2006 (SC 1737) called on Iran to suspend uranium enrichment-related activities including research and development. Moreover Iran should closely cooperate with the IAEA so as to verify the outlined suspension. Consequently, strict sanctions were imposed to Iran.

With reference to the findings of the Agency and the report of the Director General Mr. Mohammed Elbaradei, Iran had not complied with the demand of the international community to suspend. In addition, gaps remained in the Agency's knowledge with respect to the scope and nature of Iran's current and past centrifuge enrichment programme.

Due to this fact and also the lack of willingness of Iran to resolve these issues, the Agency was unable to make further progress in its efforts to assure the International Community concerning the absence of undeclared nuclear activities in Iran.

In order to reach a compromise, the Director General proposed a timeout on the Iranian nuclear issue, meaning that Iran would freeze its nuclear program, while the United Nations would temporarily suspend the sanctions package against Iran. In this way Iran is given time to take confidence-building measures,

including suspension of uranium enrichment activities, the clarification of all issues related to the verification of its nuclear programme and to assure the international community of its peaceful nature.

Therefore, accomplishing full transparency on the part of Iran and negotiations as well as dialogue with all concerned parties can result in gaining international confidence and establishing a durable solution for its nuclear programme. As a matter of fact, Iran has not only fostered discussions with the IAEA but also it has provided the Agency with access to declared nuclear material so as to proof its peaceful intentions. Moreover, it is claimed that Iran halted active work on its nuclear weapons program in 2003, according to a report the U.S. intelligence presented on December 2007.

Taking everything into consideration, Iran has made significant steps forward in order to convince the International Community through an intensive cooperation with the "nuclear watchdog of the UN". It is of great importance for Iran to build confidence about the scope and peaceful nature of its present and future nuclear programme. This can be accomplished through close cooperation and dialogue, meaning only if the Agency would be able to provide assurances and confirm the peaceful intentions.