

Right of Reply of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before the fifth session of
the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of
Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
New York, 18 November 2024

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. President,

My delegation firmly and categorically rejects unsubstantiated and politically motivated allegations made by the UK and France regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

While we express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Ulyanov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the International Organizations in Vienna, for providing insightful, factual, and first-hand explanations regarding the Iran nuclear deal, I would like to take this opportunity to remind the UK and France delegations of crucial points they have willfully overlooked regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program and the JCPOA, choosing instead to resort to mis and disinformation.

After 13 years of complex negotiations, in 2015 Iran and the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was a unique achievement of multilateral diplomacy to end the manufactured crisis over Iran's peaceful nuclear program. Yet, the Israeli regime and its warmongering prime minister – who himself had contributed to the manufacturing of this crisis – made it his “historic mission” to obstruct and kill the nuclear deal: an agreement that would have ensured that the

“wolf” this habitual liar was always “crying” about, would never come to town.

That agreement could have been the foundation of a new era of peace, tranquility, regional cooperation, and freedom from threats, conflicts, and escalating tensions.

However, before too long, the Israeli regime prime minister and his Zionist and extremist cohorts succeeded in their satanic effort to rob the region and the world of this historic opportunity, standing on the wrong side of history.

Standing on the wrong side of history again, Netanyahu and his regime, along with Israel’s Western enablers have unleashed the machinery of death and destruction in the region, causing carnage and crimes against humanity in a genocidal campaign that has murdered over 50,000 civilians, including over 10,000 children. However, resistance to occupation will not die by killing children or even its leaders.

Mr. President, distinguished colleagues,

Iran fulfilled all its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in good faith, as verified by numerous reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In spite of this great achievement of multilateral diplomacy, the President of the United States in May 2018 announced his country’s unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA, and the unlawful re-imposition of all United States sanctions, in material breach of resolution 2231 (2015).

Following the United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA, the United Nations Secretary-General, the remaining JCPOA participants, and many

other members of the international community, while repeatedly underlying the security and strategic ramifications of the JCPOA, called on Iran to address its concerns through the mechanisms established in the JCPOA and to allow the remaining JCPOA participants to redress the unlawful withdrawal. The European JCPOA participants requested Iran to wait for only a few weeks to allow them to compensate for the losses Iran incurred as a result of the re-imposed United States sanctions.

However, acting in good faith, we refrained from applying the ‘remedy’ in order to enable the remaining JCPOA participants to make good on their promises. For a full year, we continued full implementation of the JCPOA. I trust you are all aware of the 15 consecutive IAEA reports that verified Iran’s full compliance with its JCPOA commitments.

Unfortunately, the response of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (E3) to our “strategic patience” was not a long-overdue assertion of European “strategic autonomy”. Rather it was over-compliance with the United States’ “maximum pressure” targeting all Iranians.

With the United States re-imposing all sanctions specified in the JCPOA and its Annex II, and as elaborated above, with no remedial measures implemented by the remaining JCPOA participants, my country was left with no recourse but to exercise its rights under paragraphs 26 and 36 of the JCPOA to apply remedial action and cease performing its commitments in part on 8 May 2019.

In spite of all this, our remedial measures have until now had no impact on the IAEA’s monitoring and verification of our peaceful nuclear programme, thereby making any proliferation risks irrelevant. Indeed,

Iran's peaceful nuclear programme remains subject to the "most robust" inspection regime in history.

Unsubstantiated allegations against Iran's peaceful nuclear program have been used by certain States, including the US, the UK, and France to take policies and actions that have unlawfully prejudiced the legitimate legal interests of my country, under the NPT's grand bargain.

The UK and France should be concerned about NATO's nuclear-sharing policy, as they are active members of this military alliance. Nuclear sharing arrangements remain a major concern for the international community, yet some countries continue to justify their violations of NPT obligations through questionable reinterpretations of its provisions.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that Western nuclear-weapon states participating in this Conference as observers should not misuse the opportunity to engage with regional countries on the creation of a WMD-free Middle East by making unsubstantiated allegations against Conference members. This behavior must cease in future sessions, and if it continues, the Conference should take appropriate action. These states should focus on their primary responsibility within the Conference framework which is negotiating negative security assurances for the countries of the region.

Thank you.