

AGENDA ITEM 6: NUCLEAR VERIFICATION

(C)IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT AND RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Chairperson,

At the outset, South Africa fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and wishes to offer a few additional remarks.

Chairperson,

My delegation thanks the Director General and the Secretariat for this latest report and the technical briefing for Member States. South Africa has closely followed developments regarding Iran's nuclear programme and welcomes the vital role played by the IAEA with regard to Iran's implementation of its Safeguards Agreement and the Agency's continuous verification of Iran's declared nuclear material. My delegation takes note that the Agency has continued to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in Iran and that Iran has provided a Design Information Questionnaire (DIQ) for Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), including the timely notification of the Agency regarding the loading of fresh fuel into the reactor core. It is further noted that containment and surveillance measures have been put in place in order to maintain continuity of knowledge until the core is closed and sealed, and we look forward to Iran's declaration of the operational schedule of Bushehr to the Agency to enable the IAEA to fulfil its verification mandate in accordance with the Safeguards Agreement between Iran and the Agency.

My delegation further notes from the report that the nuclear material at the Fuel Enrichment Plant (FEP), including the feed, product and tails, as well as all installed cascades and the feed and withdrawal stations, remain under Agency containment and surveillance.

Chairperson,

We have noted that all the issues from the Work Programme have been completed except for the outstanding alleged studies.

We note from the report that contrary to Board of Governors and United Nations Security Council resolutions, Iran has not suspended its enrichment related activities. South Africa reiterates its concern about the lack of progress with regard to Iran's compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and to implement the Additional Protocol as well as the modified Code 3.1. We encourage Iran to continue its cooperation with the Agency and clarify the outstanding issues in order to restore confidence in Iran's peaceful nuclear programme.

South Africa has repeatedly stated that it would not want to see any country being denied its rights under the NPT. We have said that the call on Iran to suspend enrichment activities is related to building confidence and should not be a goal in itself. We have also cautioned against actions that could be undertaken that would minimize the capacity of the IAEA to perform its verification work in Iran.

In conclusion, Chairperson, South Africa is encouraged by recent reports that the concerned parties have agreed to get together at the negotiation table for unconditional talks and it is hoped that this new window of opportunity is made use of by all parties concerned in a renewed effort to find a sustainable peaceful solution, including the issue of fuel supply for the TRR, through dialogue, which can also be an important confidence building measure. My

delegation would urge that this new opportunity be taken by all parties through genuine negotiations and in a spirit of goodwill, to produce a constructive outcome that can contribute to a process that will help produce peace and security in the region.

Thank you.