

SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENTS TO THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS: 7-11 MARCH 2011

AGENDA ITEM 4(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, my delegation associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and thanks the Director General and his staff for the update report on the safeguards implementation in Iran, as contained in document GOV/2011/7, as well as the technical briefing on 2 March 2011.

Chairperson,

South Africa has closely followed developments regarding Iran's nuclear programme over recent years and Iran's implementation of its Safeguards Agreement and the Agency's continuous verification of Iran's declared nuclear material.

South Africa welcomes the continued cooperation between the Agency and Iran and takes note that Iran has declared to the Agency under its Safeguards Agreement, 16 nuclear facilities and 9 locations outside of the facilities where nuclear material is customarily used (LOFs), and that the Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material at these facilities and LOFs. South Africa further notes that the Agency has concluded that the Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant (FEP) and the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP) have operated as declared by Iran in the Design Information Questionnaire (DIQ).

My delegation takes note that the Agency has verified that the construction of the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant is ongoing and that no centrifuges have been introduced into the facility.

Chairperson,

South Africa notes the recent inspection of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) and the subsequent verification of the nuclear material present in the facility. South Africa further welcomes the positive cooperation between the Agency and Iran regarding the declaration of continuous developments at the facility and the agreement reached between the two parties for the implementation of necessary safeguards measures. All these indicate a good overall pattern of cooperation

Chairperson,

As we have stated in previous statements, the UN Security Council resolutions are mandatory and in this regard South Africa reiterates its concern about the lack of progress with regard to Iran's compliance with the relevant IAEA and UN Security Council decisions.

We have in earlier statements also stated our positions on other related issues which are outstanding.

Chairperson,

Regarding the possible military dimensions, my delegation has noted that the Agency received additional information in August 2008 and most recently further new information was received. Board members are not privy to this information but we hope that it has been conveyed to Iran for clarification.

My delegation encourages Iran to continue its cooperation with the Agency and clarify the outstanding issues in order to restore confidence in Iran's peaceful nuclear programme.

Chairperson,

We have noted the statement made today on behalf of the E3+3 which emphasizes diplomatic dialogue and clearly it is these parties and Iran who can make substantive progress on these matters that can contribute to a solution.

As in the past, South Africa once again encourages all parties concerned to avoid any actions that could derail progress towards finding a sustainable solution to the Iranian nuclear issue and supports the view that continued dialogue and political good will can contribute to a peaceful resolution of the issues at hand. South Africa strongly encourages all parties to resume constructive dialogue in this regard.

I thank you.