Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

On the Inalienable Right to Develop and Use Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes

At the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

New York, 7 May 2019

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

Mr. Chairman,

I associate my delegation with the NAM statement.

Promoting the full realization of the inherent rights of States parties to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is a key component of the NPT and constitutes one of its fundamental objectives. As stipulated in article IV, none of the Treaty’s provisions shall be interpreted as affecting these inalienable rights.

They include all areas of nuclear activities and technology, including participation in the fullest possible exchange of equipment and materials and the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as well as enrichment and reprocessing activities and related technology. As reiterated in the Final Documents of the 1985, 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences each country’s choices and decisions in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected and protected.

Article IV also obligates all States parties to facilitate international cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Full compliance with this legal obligation is essential for all States parties, in particular those possessing advanced nuclear technology, equipment and scientific information.

The recent U.S. decision to impose unilateral and illegal sanction against civil nuclear cooperation projects with Iran constitutes a clear violation of the U.S. obligation under article IV of the NPT.

It is also in total contradiction with the U.S. obligation under the Security Council resolution 2231 which encourages UN Member States to cooperate with Iran in the framework of the JCPOA in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to engage in mutually determined civil nuclear cooperation projects, in accordance with annex III of the JCPOA.
Moreover, such U.S. sanctions constitute a material breach of the obligatory decision of Security Council, as contained in paragraph 21 of resolution 2231 as well as paragraphs 7 (a) and (b) of annex B to that resolution.

The U.S. is pursuing a destructive policy to dismantle the JCPOA and UNSC resolution 2231. The anti-JCPOA and other unlawful and coercive measures by the U.S. administration against Iran allude to the fact that the current administration of the U.S. is driven by the rule of the Jungle in its international relations. Such policies will not be left unanswered and in accordance with its recognized rights in the JCPOA, Iran will soon adopt appropriate measures to preserve its supreme national interests. Iran has never abandoned its inalienable right to nuclear technology and will never do so in the future. The U.S. will be responsible for any consequences of its reckless policies against the JCPOA.

Mr. Chairman,

The unencumbered transfer of peaceful nuclear technology is essential for achieving the objective of expanded peaceful nuclear cooperation. It is a matter of deep concern that certain States parties continue to impose unilateral and arbitrary restrictions beyond the IAEA safeguards, on the transfer of nuclear materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes. Such restrictions are in clear violation of obligations under article IV and no pretext can justify it; therefore, they must come to an end.

Regrettably such restrictions are being applied on NPT States Parties where non-parties to the Treaty with nuclear weapons program are benefiting from nuclear cooperation by certain nuclear-weapon States. Consistent with action 51 of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference, restrictions on transfer of nuclear materials, equipment and technology for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to non-nuclear-weapons States parties to the NPT should be swiftly removed.

The IAEA, as the principal specialized agency for nuclear technology transfer among the international organizations referred to in article IV (2) of the Treaty, has an important role in contributing to international cooperation for the further development of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

The effective and successful operation of the Agency’s technical assistance and cooperation program is critical to performing its task in promoting nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It is necessary to take practical steps to ensure that IAEA resources in this area are sufficient, assured and predictable.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.