

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION****INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT**

32/34 Smolenskaya-Sennaya pl., 119200, Moscow G-200; tel.: (095) 244 4119, fax: 244 4112  
e-mail: dip@mid.ru\_ web-address: www.mid.ru

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**PRESS RELEASE****Concerning UN Security Council Presidential Statement on Iranian Nuclear Program**

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On March 29 a UN Security Council Presidential Statement was adopted in New York on issues related to the nuclear program of Iran. The statement reflects the common opinion of the Council that Iran should fully cooperate with the IAEA to remove certain problems connected with the Iranian nuclear program.

The Council has expressed concern that the IAEA is still unable to confirm the absence of undeclared nuclear materials or activities in Iran. This situation is the result of uncertainties related to the nature of Iran's nuclear program, which in the past was being developed not quite transparently. Many questions are already settled through Teheran's cooperation with the IAEA, but a number still remain unclarified.

Against this background, it is important that the Security Council expressed firm support for the efforts of the IAEA and its Board of Governors (BG) in the work with Iran to settle the problems still outstanding, including the BG resolutions on the steps which are required of Teheran to restore confidence in the nuclear program of the country. Among them: suspension of all enrichment-related activities.

Such steps, and this was particularly stressed, will contribute to a diplomatic, negotiated solution to the problem. We are certain that there can be no other solutions.

Thus, the Security Council asks the IAEA to carry on its activities to clarify the remaining questions about Iran's nuclear program in the period ahead. In a month the Agency's Director General is to submit a report to the IAEA Board of Governors on Iran's compliance with the BG decisions. The same report will be forwarded to the Council.

We insistently urge the leadership of Iran to listen most attentively to the common opinion of the UN Security Council members and ensure full cooperation with the IAEA on all the remaining questions.

Russia, like other Council members, fully recognizes the right of all member states to the

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to develop nuclear energy research, production and use for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in accordance with Articles I and II of this Treaty. This point is made clearly in the UNSC Presidential Statement. We would like that through constructive cooperation by Iran with the IAEA, whose efforts are now supported by the SC members, it would become possible in the foreseeable future already, carrying out Iran's nuclear energy program in a normal way, as is the case in the absolute majority of NPT member states.

March 30, 2006