

MEMMO

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Iran Enrichment Deal: Stalling Tactic to Derail Sanctions

Iran is embarking on a new effort to scuttle sanctions through acceptance of a new Turkish-Brazilian “compromise” proposal. Under this proposal, Iran would ship only half of its low enriched uranium (LEU) out of the country for further enrichment while continuing to violate numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions. The international community cannot afford to be taken in by this Iranian ruse and should move rapidly to step up pressure on Tehran.

The deal between Iran, Turkey and Brazil does not require Tehran to end its enrichment of uranium as the U.N. Security Council has demanded.

- The central features of the Turkish-Brazilian proposal were originally rejected by Iran last October when it was offered by the United States, International Atomic Energy Agency and other world powers. It is only now being accepted in an attempt to delay impending U.N. action.
- This new deal, according to published reports, only requires Iran to ship half of its existing stockpiled LEU outside the country. This leaves Iran with as much LEU as the original proposal was supposed to remove and enough—if it is further enriched—for one nuclear bomb.
- Since the original U.S.-backed proposal was offered last year, Iran not only increased its stockpile of LEU, but has begun enriching its uranium to a level closer to weapons-grade (a move the original plan sought to head off) and unveiled a more advanced model of centrifuges to produce more LEU at a faster rate.
- Iran is using this deal with Turkey and Brazil precisely to distract from this main requirement of the international community—the long-overdue suspension of its enrichment of uranium.
- The United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia have all expressed caution about the reported deal. As White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said, “Given Iran’s repeated failure to live up to its own commitments, and the need to address fundamental issues related to Iran’s nuclear program, the United States and international community continue to have serious concerns.”
- The United States and its allies said Iran must take concrete action to allay concerns about its nuclear program. A spokesman for British Prime Minister David Cameron said, “Iran has an obligation to reassure the international community, and until it does so, we will continue to work with our international partners on a sanctions resolution in the United Nations Security Council.”



The United States and other world powers are skeptical about a nuclear fuel swap deal reached by Brazil, Iran and Turkey.

Iran refuses to comply with the requirements of the Security Council and continues to advance its nuclear program.

- The Security Council has demanded five times—under chapter seven of the U.N. Charter—that Iran suspend its nuclear program. As far as is known publicly, the proposal to send out a portion of Iran’s LEU to be enriched for medical purposes does not require it to suspend its enrichment.
- Rather than suspend uranium enrichment, Iran is converting its stockpile of low-enriched uranium (uranium gas enriched to between 3.5 and 5 percent) into uranium enriched to 20 percent—a level that represents 85 percent of the work necessary to produce fuel for a nuclear weapon.
- Iran announced on April 9 that it has developed an advanced, third-generation centrifuge that is 10 times more powerful in enriching uranium than the regime’s first generation centrifuges.

In the face of Iranian defiance, the Security Council must quickly adopt new crippling sanctions.

- Iran’s rejection of U.S. and international engagement efforts combined with Tehran’s refusal to meet the requirements of the U.N. Security Council leaves the international community no option but to implement stringent new sanctions on the Iranian regime. It has now been nearly 20 months since the Security Council last acted and almost four years since its first resolution.
- The United States must press for a resolution with consequential sanctions and not allow Russia or China to weaken the measure. At a minimum, a resolution should include tough mandatory sanctions on the Iranian financial system and on Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a complete arms embargo, and authorization for individual countries to take additional steps.
- President Obama has called on the Security Council to act quickly, saying on April 13, “My interest is not having a long, drawn-out process for months. I want to see us move forward boldly and quickly to send the kind of message that will allow Iran to make a different calculation.”

The United States must supplement U.N. action with its own additional sanctions against Iran and companies doing business with Tehran.

- The U.S. government has a wide array of existing authority at its disposal, including the ability to sanction foreign investment in Iran’s energy sector (the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996) and measures targeting the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)—a Specially Designated Global Terrorist Organization since 2007.
- The federal government should stop awarding contracts to companies that do business in Iran. During the past decade the United States has awarded \$107 billion in contracts and grants to more than 70 companies violating the spirit of U.S. sanctions, *The New York Times* reported on March 7.
- The administration has been rightly pushing for tough multilateral sanctions at the United Nations. But given the protracted nature of Security Council negotiations, it is time now for America, along with like-minded nations, to implement their own comprehensive sanctions regime.
- Final passage by Congress of legislation that sanctions the sale and export to Iran of refined petroleum products and other similar legislation is critical. With Iran forced to import up to 40 percent of its gasoline and diesel, limiting the country’s access to such products would have a dramatic economic effect and could force the regime to change course.
- American and international sanctions on Iran must be overwhelming to change the dynamic within Iran and to alter the policies of Iranian leaders. Sanctions should target Iran’s finance, insurance, shipping, transportation, natural gas and manufacturing industries in addition to Tehran’s dependence on refined petroleum.