

# MEMO

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## **Time for U.N., American Action as Iran Continues to Stall**

Iran is seeking to delay U.N. Security Council sanctions deliberations by rehashing old proposals and offering more talks. Eighteen months ago, the Security Council demanded that Iran suspend its nuclear activity, while four months have passed since Tehran rejected the proposal to enrich its uranium for medical purposes outside the country. The international community must reject Iran's stalling and rapidly impose crippling sanctions while time remains to prevent Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

### **Iran seeks to delay sanctions by rehashing old proposals and offering the prospect of more talks.**

- Iran has tried to forestall new sanctions by attempting to renegotiate the terms of a U.S.-backed proposal, which would entail Iran sending a substantial portion of its low-enriched uranium abroad to be processed for medical uses.
- Iran's proposal to open discussions more than six months after the deal was first offered by the United States and other world powers, and four months after Tehran's formal rejection of the proposal, is a clear attempt to delay new sanctions.
- Iran has tried to elicit the mediation of Brazil and Turkey to resurrect talks. State Department Spokesman P.J. Crowley said these efforts have come up "empty-handed" and that the United States is "increasingly skeptical" that Iran will change its behavior.
- Against the background of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference, Iran invited Security Council members to a dinner designed to convince them to delay sanctions. One U.S. official said this showed the "lengths the Iranians are going" to prevent the implementation of sanctions.
- Iran has indicated a new-found willingness to discuss its nuclear program with EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton. Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said Iran was ready for the talks; however, no time or venue had been suggested.



**In a recent address to the U.N., Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Tehran will continue its nuclear program.**

### **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. It has now been nearly 20 months since the Security Council last acted and almost four years since its first resolution.

- 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.
- Iran is continuing construction work at the Arak Heavy Water Reactor while refusing to grant international inspectors access to its heavy water production plant. Once operational, the reactor has the potential to produce significant quantities of weapons-grade plutonium.

**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.
- 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 the Iranian 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 and decisively, 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.