



INSPECTIONS AND
VERIFICATION



POSSIBLE MILITARY
DIMENSIONS



SANCTIONS



DURATION



DISMANTLEMENT

4. DURATION Iran's nuclear weapons quest must be blocked for decades.

A good deal must prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear threshold state. The announced framework would lift nuclear restrictions in 10 to 15 years and grant Iran virtually instant breakout time after 12 or 13 years. A deal must restrict Iran's nuclear capabilities, to include research and development, until it demonstrates conclusively, over time, that it no longer seeks a nuclear weapons capability.

No Early Sunset: A good deal must not expire until Iran has proved over time that its nuclear ambitions are for peaceful purposes only. Iran must not be able to adhere to the limited time constraints of an agreement while it continues to acquire the capability to produce nuclear weapons. There are no assurances that Iran's governance or ideology would be more peaceful in 10 years than it has been for the past 35 years.

Extended Breakout Time: A good deal must extend Iran's "breakout" time (the time required to produce enough fissile material for one nuclear weapon) beyond one year. There must be sufficient time to conclusively determine if Iran has violated the agreement and to galvanize the international community to mount an effective response. According to President Obama, Iran's current breakout time is two to three months.

Restricted Enrichment Capability: A good deal must restrict Iran's uranium enrichment program to low-level enrichment (3.5%) in order to establish that its nuclear ambitions are peaceful. Iran should not be freed from restrictions limiting the number and types of centrifuges enriching uranium until it is clear that Iran has no intention to develop nuclear weapons. Removing these restrictions after 10 years, as indicated in the framework agreement, could give Iran an almost instantaneous breakout time after just a few years.

Restricted Stockpile: A good deal must ensure a very limited Iranian uranium stockpile, preferably by shipping virtually all enriched uranium out of the country. In addition, all spent nuclear fuel from the Bushehr reactor must be shipped out of the country for the reactor's lifetime.

Limited Nuclear Research: A good deal must, among other measures, counter Iranian nuclear weaponization efforts by limiting Iran's ability to conduct nuclear weapons research, development and testing for decades.

Monitor Iran's Supply Chain: A good deal must monitor the entire supply chain of Iranian procurement that supports Iran's nuclear activities for decades.

"Verifiable constraints on Iran's nuclear program must last for decades."

– Letter to President Obama signed by 367 House members on March 20, 2015