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AIPAC APPLAUDS U.N. RESOLUTION ON IRAN

AIPAC applauds today's overwhelming passage of a third resolution by the United Nations Security Council imposing increased sanctions against Iran and ratcheting up demands that the Islamic Republic end its pursuit of nuclear weapons capability. We commend the leadership of the United States and its efforts to secure broad international support for this measure.

The international community, including China, Russia and the European Union, must now act swiftly to fully implement the sanctions included in this and all previous resolutions. In addition, these nations must also take immediate unilateral steps to sanction those businesses that continue to do business with Iran's energy sector and aid Iran's military.

This resolution presents a unified front against Iran and its illicit nuclear program and marks the third resolution on Iran by the United Nations since 2006. This new and intensified round of sanctions will restrict the sale of nuclear-related equipment to Iran and, for the first time, authorize inspections of air and sea cargo going in and out of Iran. It also calls upon states to exercise vigilance over trade and banking relationships with Iran.

In direct violation of previous U.N. resolutions, Iran continues to step up its nuclear enrichment activities—a key step in the development of atomic arms. The past few months have seen Iran make significant technological advancements, including the activation of a highly advanced uranium centrifuge, dramatically reducing the time needed to enrich the fuel to create a nuclear bomb. Iran has also successfully completed the launch of a “research” rocket into space, employing the same technology that can be used to launch intercontinental ballistic missiles. These provocative actions underscore the need for continued action by the U.N. and the international community.

Sanctions imposed by the United States and other nations are having a direct impact on Iran's economy and are forcing the Islamic Republic to reconsider the costs of its illicit nuclear work. Countries must leverage the momentum of this resolution to pursue continued individual and bilateral sanctions efforts to further isolate Iran's radical regime.

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