

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 18, 2010

Contact: Josh Block
press@aipac.org

AIPAC APPLAUDS MOVE TOWARD NEW UNSC RESOLUTION: IMPOSITION OF TOUGH SANCTIONS NEEDED

AIPAC applauds Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's announcement that the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China and Germany have agreed to a new draft U.N. Security Council resolution imposing additional sanctions on Iran. We commend the Obama administration's leadership effort to secure immediate passage of this measure, a 6th Security Council resolution demanding Tehran immediately suspend all nuclear work and open up to full inspection. At the same time, America's effort can only succeed if followed by tough national and multilateral sanctions. In this context, Congress must complete its work on sanctions legislation at an early date, and bodies like the European Union need to dramatically step up penalties on Iran.

Iran's rejection of U.S. and international engagement efforts combined with its defiance of earlier Security Council resolutions leaves no choice but to impose biting new sanctions on Tehran. It has now been twenty months since the Security Council last spoke to this issue and nearly four years since its first resolution demanded full Iranian compliance with its nonproliferation obligations..

Since the 2002 exposure of Iran's nuclear program – following 18 years of lying about its efforts to the International Atomic Energy Agency – Iran has continued to conceal its military nuclear infrastructure and weapons related programs. Iran has built thousands of advanced nuclear centrifuges, installed larger and more sophisticated enrichment cascades and covert nuclear facilities, converted tons of uranium ore into uranium hexafluoride (the gas needed to enrich uranium), and now possesses enough material to make two nuclear weapons.

Iran is the world's leading sponsor of terrorism and continues its efforts to export its revolution. The Islamic Republic's acquisition of a nuclear weapons capability would pose a grave and direct threat to the national security of the United States and our allies in the Middle East, Europe and Asia, would destroy the fabric of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime, and would deeply undermine global stability.

AIPAC calls for quick U.N. Security Council passage of tough sanctions, and calls on our government and our European allies – including the European Union – to press ahead urgently and immediately with complementary and crippling sanctions to stop Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability before it is too late. AIPAC urges Congress to complete its work on Iran sanctions legislation and urges President Obama to sign and implement that legislation immediately upon its arrival on his desk.

###