Regional challenges to WMD Nonproliferation

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Lecture 4

Iran’s Nuclear Program and JCPOA: a case study of addressing proliferation through diplomacy
Iran’s first commercial nuclear reactor went online in February 2012. It was built with technology and fuel rods imported from Russia.
Iranian Nuclear Program (2)

Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant
Source: http://news.made.ru

Iran's Arak facility
Source: www.payvand.com/news

Isfahan Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF)
Source: www.nti.org
UN Security Council Resolutions on Iran

2010

Security Council Resolution 1929
9 June 2010

2008

Security Council Resolution 1835
27 September 2008
Security Council Resolution 1803
3 March 2008

2007

Security Council Resolution 1747
24 March 2007

2006

Security Council Resolution 1737
23 December 2006
Security Council Resolution 1696
31 July 2006
Chronology of negotiations over the Iranian Nuclear Program:

**June 15, 2013** – Hassan Rouhani elected as President of Iran

**November 24, 2013** – an interim agreement was reached; The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was to be concluded by **July 20, 2014**.

The interim agreement was extended until **November 24, 2014**, then until **June 30, 2015**.

**April 2, 2015** – parameters for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action were drafted

**July 14, 2015** – Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was adopted
**Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (1)**

- keeps its uranium stockpile under 300 kg of uranium enriched up to 3.67% during the 15 year period
- limits itself to 6,104 operational centrifuges, with only 5,060 allowed to enrich uranium for 10 years (from 19,000 centrifuges of which 10,000 were operational) for 10 years
- converts Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant into a research center
- implements Additional Protocol
- redesigns Arak research reactor and ships out the spent fuel
- provides unprecedented access for IAEA to monitor its nuclear program
Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2)

- impose no new nuclear-related sanctions against Iran
- terminate UN sanctions against Iran, some EU sanctions are terminated/suspended, the U.S. "ceases" application of its nuclear-related sanctions once IAEA verifies that Iran implements its part of the deal
- lift the ballistic missiles embargo in 8 years
- lift the arms embargo in 5 years
- UN SC closes Iranian nuclear dossier 10 years after the adoption of the agreement
Implementation of the JCPOA

**July 20, 2015** – UN SC Resolution 2231 was adopted

**January 16, 2016** – IAEA Report certified that Iran fulfilled its obligations under the JCPOA, Resolution 2231 entered into force

**May 8, 2018** – Donald Trump announced US withdrawal from the JCPOA

**May 25, 2018** – The Joint Commission established under the JCPOA held its first meeting without the US, set to continue the implementation of the agreement and to maintain the economic benefits for Iran to adhere to the agreement

**August 7, 2018** – First set of US sanctions on Iran entered into effect

**November 5, 2018** – Second set of US sanctions was imposed against Iran. Eight countries received temporary waivers to continue buying Iranian oil; peaceful nuclear facilities and projects in Iran were also exempted
Implementation of the JCPOA

January 9, 2019 – INSTEX entered into force (only for humanitarian exchanges)

May 8, 2019 – Iran announced that it was going to reduce its obligations every 60 days until the EU secures Iran`s economic interests

July 7, 2019 – Iran exceeded the uranium enrichment and stockpile limits levels provided for by the JCPOA

August 24, 2018 – French President Macron announced his intention to facilitate dialogue between Washington and Tehran as well as to provide 15 billion dollars credit line in order to create incentives for Iran to stay within the JCPOA

September 14, 2019 – Attacks on Saudi oil facilities reportedly backed by Iran trigger further tensions in the region

November 5, 2019 – Iran started using centrifuges at the Fordow facility for industrial rather than research purposes
Remaining issues

- Saving the JCPOA
- Prohibition of attacks against nuclear facilities in the Middle East
- Creation of “climate of trust” in the region concerning nuclear safety and security and beginning of the regional dialogue on the full range of nuclear issues
Iranian Nuclear Issue: What does Iran Need?

Regime’s internal political stability

Providing external security and armed conflict risk minimization

Technological progress and self-sufficiency

External expansion, recognition as a regional superpower and as a magnet of attraction for all the Muslims in the Middle East
IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM: RUSSIA'S INTERESTS

"Russia welcomes the agreement reached today in Vienna on a settlement of the situation concerning Iran's nuclear programme and the joint comprehensive plan of action approved by the six countries and Iran. We are certain that the world heaved a sigh of relief today. We expect that all the parties concerned, primarily the six states involved in the negotiations, will comply with the deal in full".

President of Russia Vladimir Putin

The Iranian nuclear program has been carefully reviewed by PIR Center's experts over the last 15 years. The issue is covered on the regular bases through Security Index journal, exclusive bulletin Russia Confidential as well as PIR PRESS newsletter.

PIR Center Founder and Special Advisor Dr. Vladimir A. Orlov is a permanent participant of Russian and international summits and expert discussions aimed at bringing the sustainability to the situation around Iranian nuclear program.