



Committee: Disarmament and International Security

Question of: The Need for a New Iran Nuclear Deal

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Introduction:

In 2015, after years of tension due to the alleged nuclear weapon development in Iran, the P5 countries plus Germany agreed with Iran a long-term deal on its nuclear weapons program, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or, less formally, the Iran Nuclear Deal. However, due to the recent United States withdrawal from the deal on the 8th May 2018, the future of the deal is unclear.

Prior to the deal, Iran had insisted its nuclear programme was entirely peaceful, focused on industrial uses of nuclear power, however the international community did not believe this. Countries placed crippling economic sanctions on Iran as a punishment for the supposed nuclear weapons, meaning Iran could not trade with many other countries. In return for being granted trade internationally again, Iran had to sign the JCPOA, meaning it had to massively cut down its nuclear energy programme.

Now that the United States, a key signatory and supporter of the deal, have withdrawn, Iran are unsure of what they will do. Their president, Hassan Rouhani, has says he will try to salvage the deal, along with the UK, France and Germany, however the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, does not seem to believe that will work, as he lacks confidence in the remaining countries.

The Issue:

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2015)

The original Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) prevented the development of Iranian nuclear weapons in return for the international community to lift crippling economic sanctions on Iran. The JCPOA was endorsed and supported by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 2231 (2015) and was passed unanimously by the Security Council. There were multiple parts to the deal to ensure Iranian use of nuclear power was for industrial purposes only, not for weapons development.

Limitations to the current Iran nuclear programme was a large part of the JCPOA. Enriched uranium is used to make a reactor fuel, but also nuclear weapons. The differentiation is in the level of enrichment. Fuel uranium has a 3%-4% concentration of enriched uranium, whereas weapon-grade uranium has a 90% concentration. Under the JCPOA, Iran has to keep its uranium at 3.67%



enrichment. Iran also had almost 20,000 centrifuges in July 2015 which was limited to installing no more than 5,060 until 2026 in the JCPOA. Iran's uranium stockpile was also reduced by 98% and must not be increased until 2031 – 15 years after the implementation date. Iran also resigned its current heavy-water reactor, which had to the potential to create weapon-grade plutonium, to ensure that it could not produce such plutonium, and it was banned from building any addition heavy-water reactors until 2031. Finally, in the JCPOA, only research and development were allowed to take place at two of the previous enrichment plants.

The JCPOA also eliminated the possibility of any covert activity, or the building of a nuclear weapon in secret. As a part of the deal, Iran agreed to inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continually monitoring Iran's declared nuclear site to ensure that no fissile material was secretly being moved to other sites to build a bomb. Iran also agreed to the Additional Protocol to their IAEA Safeguard Agreement, allowing inspectors to review any site they deem suspicious.

The deal also restricts Iran from undertaking any activity related to the design of ballistic missiles that are able to carry and deliver nuclear weapons. This includes the launching and testing of such ballistic missile technology. It is important to note that Iran broke this on December 1st 2018 by launching and testing a medium-range ballistic missile that was capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

The deal ensured that Iran was not and could not build a nuclear weapon. It also increased Iran's 'break-out time' which was the time the time Iran would need to create a bomb, increasing it from 2 or 3 months to a year or more.

[Actions and Effects of the United States of America](#)

During October 2017, President Trump highlighted his concern over the Iran Nuclear Deal, announcing that the deal must be either renegotiated or terminated. He repeated his concerns against on January 12th, 2018, and finally, on the 8th May, Trump declared America was withdrawing from the deal and reinstating all previous sanctions that were imposed on Iran.

Trump called the deal "decaying and rotten", claiming that it did not address the long-term threats posed by Iran. He also criticises the deal for its lack of address of Iran's non-nuclear weapons, missile programs and activities in other countries such as Syria and Yemen. He claims the apparent elimination of covert creation of bombs is ineffective, and that the deal lacks mechanisms to punish should it break the JCPOA. As a result, the USA withdrew from the deal and re-imposed harsh sanctions against Iran's banking and oil sectors.

This has subsequently caused the deal to become very unstable. Although Iran's prime minister is willing and hoping to be able to salvage the deal, it is seemingly unlikely that this will happen. Both Iran and the other signatories of the deal are struggling to find a solution as US sanctions are making it difficult for the European Union's pledge to maintain trade with Iran. This is causing the Iranians to run out of patience, as the Iran Nuclear Deal, created to benefit Iran's economy, is no longer benefitting Iran.



Problems Posed by the Collapse of the Deal

A major problem posed by the collapse of the current nuclear deal is that Iran would then continue to develop nuclear weapons. These weapons would be used for both defensive and offensive. They could defend Iran against the threat of the United States and Israel, however could also be used to give Iran more power in the Middle East and enable bolder support of their proxies.

The collapse of the deal could also lead to a US or Israeli-led war in an effort to prevent Iran creating nuclear weapons. This would not only impact the warring countries, but heavily impact Europe as Iran would likely pressure Europe to intervene or prevent foreign aggression through tactics such as releasing a wave of migration, threatening to worsen the lives of its Afghan refugee population or pressuring through the threat of European drug trafficking.

A new or salvaged Iran Nuclear Deal is important to prevent all of these problems. Although the United States was a major power in the deal, they would not be a vital member, having violated the deal multiple times since its implementation date. The Iranian president said that the deal could still survive without America, calling them a “mischievous presence”.

Key Events

Event/Date	Explanation
Different countries 2018 statements about Donald Trump’s decision of withdrawing from the JCPOA deal.	The UK, France and Germany, issued a statement expressing "regret and concern" about the decision, emphasizing Iran's compliance with the agreement and their "continuing commitment" to its principals. The leaders of those countries previously failed in their attempts to convince Trump to preserve the deal. Russia meanwhile said the US' decision was "new confirmation of Washington's incompetence," and underscored that the US, not Iran, is now technically in violation of the deal. Israel, though not a signatory, has been a staunch opponent of the agreement from the beginning. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged his full support for Trump's decision to withdraw from the deal, thanking the president for his courage. Saudi Arabia, another long standing regional objector to the agreement, issued a statement in support of Trump's withdrawal from the agreement and the reinstatement of economic sanctions. Saudi Arabia has previously warned it will pursue nuclear weapons if Iran does the same.
may 2018	The US president, Donald Trump, announced that the US was withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal framework.
UK President met Trump 2018	The UK foreign secretary, who has visited Washington DC to lobby Trump not to scuttle the agreement, said “of all the options we have for ensuring that Iran never gets a nuclear

	weapon, this pact offer the fewest disadvantages”.
january 2018	In January, Trump, the president of the United States, reluctantly waived a raft of sanctions against Iran as required by Congress every 120 days, but said “this is a last chance” and asked “European countries to join with the United States in fixing significant flaws in the deal”.
january 2016	Tehran accepted extensive monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and by February Tehran has complied with its terms. All nuclear-related sanctions were lifted in January 2016, reconnecting Iran to global markets.
2015/2016	At its core, the JCPOA is a simple agreement. Iran’s acceptance of strict limits on its nuclear programme in return for an escape from the sanctions that grew up around its economy over a decade prior to the accord. Under the deal, Iran unplugged two-thirds of its centrifuges, shipped out 98% of its enriched uranium and filled its plutonium production reactor with concrete.
2015	In 2015, Iran agreed a long-term deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), on its nuclear programme with the US, UK, France, China, Russia and Germany. The deal limited the Iranian programme to reassure the rest of the world that it would be unable to develop nuclear weapons, in return for sanctions relief.
July 2015	In July 2015, Iran had a large stockpile of enriched uranium and almost 20,000 centrifuges, enough to create 8 to 10 bombs, according to the Obama administration.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

The Obama administration said the JCPOA would remove the key elements Iran would need to create a bomb and increase its break-out time to one year or more. Iran also agreed not to engage in activities, including research and development, which could contribute to the development of a nuclear bomb. In addition, under the JCPOA, Iran said it would redesign the reactor so it could not produce any weapons-grade plutonium, and that all spent fuel would be sent out of the country as long as the modified reactor exists. In December 2015, the IAEA's board of governors voted to end its decade-long investigation into the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear programme.

After the US withdrawing from the deal Iran has ordered negotiations to begin with the remaining parties in an effort to salvage the agreement. "If we achieve the deal's goals in cooperation with other members of the deal, it will remain in place," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said. However, he has also made it clear that Iran will restart uranium enrichment if the deal cannot be saved.



Meanwhile, President Trump has said that he is “ready, willing, and able” to discuss a new deal that places tougher restrictions on Iran. Trump is open to finding diplomatic means to address his concerns about the missile program and Tehran's support for militant groups, leading to the possibility of further negotiations between US allies on a side agreement. But even if a new agreement is struck, it's not clear how they would convince Iran to sign on, or whether Russia and China, two other partners to the deal, would agree.

Possible Solutions

- Suggests to organise a meeting in the UN to come up with a new Iran Nuclear deal which includes the US and Iran between other countries and the UN as the supervisor of the enforcement of this deal, the deal will oblige Iran, among others, to destroy every nuclear weapon they possess and to close every clandestine nuclear weapons laboratory.
- Calls for an annual meeting of every country, who is part of the deal, with the aim of controlling and solving every nuclear weapon issue, as illegal nuclear weapons trades, and to reassure all countries willingness of being part of the deal.

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