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Statement by
H.E. Mr. Gholamhossein Dehghani
Ambassador and Charge d’Affaires
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
before the 69th Session of the General Assembly
under Agenda item 86: Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency
(New York, 3 November 2014)

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank Director General Amano for his report.

In the context of rising demand for energy and climate change concerns, there should be no doubt that nuclear energy is bound to play a significant role in the development of many developing countries. As indicated in the latest IAEA Annual Report, of 72 nuclear reactors which are under construction, 48 are in Asia. According to the report, over 30 countries are considering a nuclear power program or are introducing nuclear power into their energy mix. We note that many of them are developing countries.

Against this backdrop, it is obvious that the IAEA, in carrying out its Statute, has now a special responsibility in the global management of the increasing interest in the use of nuclear energy worldwide. Based on Articles II and III of its Statute, the IAEA has primary responsibility to assist Member States in research on, and development and practical application of, nuclear energy for peaceful uses. This is not to say that other statutory mandates of the IAEA, in particular safeguards-related verification activities, are subordinate. However, we emphasize that the design and implementation of required safeguards must comply with the rights of the parties to the NPT, and avoid hampering their economic or technological development. In this context, any efforts to enhance safeguards implementation, such as those under consideration in the Agency, need to ensure respect for the rights and the national sovereignty of Member States.

The peaceful use of nuclear energy and its associated technology is of great importance to the scientific, technological and economic development of the Islamic Republic of Iran. While
fully committed to its legal obligations under NPT and the relevant Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, Iran is determined to exercise its full nuclear rights, including enrichment, for peaceful purposes. This policy is based on a long-term planning to meet the growing energy needs of my country.

In this regard, Iran has made considerable investment in building necessary nuclear infrastructure and has achieved significant progress in the civil application of nuclear science and energy in medical, agricultural and industrial fields. The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is now operating by Iranian staff with the assistance of Russian specialists. Next year, Iranian operator will take over the full control of the plant’s operation.

Mr. President,

Cooperation with the IAEA has a central place in Iran’s nuclear policy. All nuclear activities and facilities in Iran are under the IAEA’s safeguards. On many occasions, as a voluntary confidence-building measure, Iran has cooperated with the Agency well beyond its existing legal obligations arising from the NPT and its Safeguards agreement. As a result, the non-diversion of declared nuclear material and facilities in Iran has always been verified and confirmed in all of the IAEA reports.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to continue its cooperation with the Agency. Since last year, a new chapter of cooperation with the IAEA has been opened and significant progress made. Iran has demonstrated its political will to continue a constructive approach in order to resolve all past and present issues. It is worth mentioning that Iran has not recognized the so-called “PMD” and indeed the Framework for Cooperation, agreed between Iran and IAEA, does not have any reference to such irrelevant notion. There have never been any authenticated documents for PMD claims and as it was underlined by the former Director General in his reports (GOV/2009/55), even the Agency has limited means to validate independently the documentation that forms its basis. Based on our principled positions, we continue to cooperate with the IAEA on clarifying some of the ambiguities. However, as stated by Iran’s high-ranking officials, areas related to our national security, like the defense capabilities, are not subject to any kind of negotiation at any level.

While the IAEA work is basically of technical nature, its operations undoubtedly take place in a political context. Therefore, observing full impartiality in conducting the technical mandate of the IAEA is essential for preserving its authority and credibility and Member States’ trust.

Mr. President,

The inalienable right of NPT members to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including national nuclear fuel cycle for peaceful purposes, must be respected by all. Some have tried to create doubts regarding the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to nuclear non-proliferation. To prove them wrong, in the past 15 months, we have engaged in good-faith and serious negotiations with our interlocutors in the P5+1 to help build
confidence regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program. We believe that the difference over Iran's peaceful nuclear program could be only resolved through negotiations. Those who may think of any other way out are either making a serious mistake or have vested interest in furthering the schemes of the warmongers, who seek to create further difficulties for our region and beyond. We are determined to continue negotiations with our interlocutors in the P5+1, based on mutual respect, and aimed at the removal of concerns of both sides. A mutually agreed solution would be attainable if the facts and realities of Iran's nuclear program are dully taken into account and excessive demands are abandoned. A comprehensive agreement would be beneficial to all sides.

I thank you Mr. President