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DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

1) Nuclear Energy

Nuclear energy is energy in the nucleus of an atom. By the breakage and the formation of the bonds, the energy is released in order to be used in the production of electricity. There are two ways of this process which are nuclear fusion and nuclear fission. Nuclear power plants use nuclear fission to produce electricity.¹

2) Nuclear power plants

They heat water to produce steam which is used to spin large turbines that generate electricity.²

3) Nuclear Fuel Cycle

It is the series of industrial processes which involve the production of electricity from uranium in nuclear power reactors.³

4) Spent nuclear fuel

Also referred as used nuclear fuel, is nuclear fuel that has been irradiated in a nuclear reactor which is no longer useful in sustaining a nuclear reaction in an ordinary reactor. Spent fuel is considered to be the best material for the production of nuclear weapons.

5) Uranium enrichment

It is one of the fundamental procedures in building nuclear weapons. Only a certain type of uranium works in nuclear reactors and bombs. At the conversion plant, uranium oxide is converted to the chemical form of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) to be usable in an enrichment facility.⁴

6) Nuclear reactions

Nuclear reactions involve changes in an atom's nucleus and thus causes a change in the atom itself which results in the conversion of one element into a different isotope or a different element as a whole. Radioactive decay of bonds is one of the types of nuclear reactions.

7) Nuclear Damage

Nuclear damage is explained as any injury to or the death, sickness or disease of a person; or damage to the environment including loss of property which associated with a nuclear installation, nuclear vessel or handling of radioactive materials.⁵

8) Nuclear Safety

Nuclear safety means the achievement of safe operating conditions, prevention of nuclear accidents or mitigation of nuclear accident consequences, resulting in the protection of workers, the public and the environment against the potential harmful effects of ionizing radiation or radioactive material.⁶

OVERVIEW

Iran's interest in nuclear energy started in 1950s, when the Iranian government has approved to receive technical assistance under the US Atoms for Peace program which was initiated due to a Cold War strategy of US. With the start of the Iranian Revolution in 1979 and after taken hostage of the people inside the US Embassy located in Tehran by a radical group, this assistance ended yet Iran remained interested in nuclear technology and developed an extensive nuclear fuel cycle, including advanced uranium enrichment facilities, which eventually became one of the most debated and discussed subject of international community. Negotiations primarily P5+1 and Iran took place and sanctions were imposed on Iran between the early course of 1979 and 2015. Negotiations between the P5+1 and Iran concluded with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in July 2015, which is a 25 year nuclear agreement limiting Iran's nuclear capability in return for the termination of the sanctions. On 16 January 2016, all nuclear activity related sanctions on Iran were removed in response to its progress on meeting the main parameters of the deal. Yet, US President Donald Trump criticised the Iran Nuclear Deal numerous times during his campaign and he officially withdrew the government of US from the agreement in May 2018. This caused various reactions from other P5+1 states.

Historical Background of the Issue

From the discovery of nuclear energy as a potential weapon in 1941 by British authorities, there has been the field of investigation by various nations predominantly by Russia, USA and UK. The oblivious approach to the undeniable power of the nuclear bomb has remained until the incidence of Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor in 1941. The declared devastation of such a bomb, weapon had seemed appealing to various governments participating in the World War II, which all had similar projects in development for the sake of possessing the victory. As a notable saying mentions "The country that built a nuclear bomb first would probably win the war", nuclear development has commenced to develop and evolve rapidly within the presence of countries acquiring sufficient sources and substructure.

Iran is a nation with a history of complicated international relations. The first ever Iranian nuclear program was started by Shah Reza Pahlavi in 1950s, as Iran signed the Iran and US Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Civil Uses of Atomic Energy as part of Atoms for Peace program which was aided by France and Germany as well. The United States leased several kilograms of enriched uranium to Iran and called for cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In 1967 Iran's first nuclear reactor Tehran Research Reactor (TRR) is activated with major assistance of US. Even though Iran signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty on Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which primarily aims to eliminate the dissemination of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon technology, with the further goal of promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in 1968, Reza Pehlavi established the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and declared his plans about the construction of the first nuclear reactor in the city of Bushehr. Until the 1970s, relations between Iran

and the western countries remained stable and positive. With the breakout of the Iranian Revolution in 1978, Iran became an Islamic Republic. This reversed the “pro-American” foreign policy of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi drastically. Since then the country's policies have fluctuated between the two opposing sides, which are the ones would eliminate Western and non-Muslim influences while primarily promoting the Islamic revolution and the others promoting peaceful and constructive international relations on the economic and political grounds. This essential and forceful governmental regime shift quickly called a halt to the nuclear project started by the *royalists*, supporters of the Shah's administration, accordingly putting on hold the construction of the nuclear facility in Bushehr. The diplomatic relations with the Western countries commenced to break up as well. In 1978, after rampages the Shah's regime was collapsed. Therefore, all the remaining thoughts of modernization of Iran were suspended, within any friendliness with the Western countries. In the following of the incidents, American citizens in the US embassy were hold captive by the Iranian government which resulted in damaging Iran's relationship with the West and US. As a result, the US Department of State added Iran to the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

In the presence of this damage in relations, the Iran-Iraq war arose. During the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988), the Bushehr nuclear facility was devastated. In 1988, the Iran-Iraq War met a ceasefire, this emphasized the severing international relations. The Iran-Iraq Arms Nonproliferation Act of 1992, ratified by the US Congress which prohibited the transfer of goods has the potency of contributing to Iran's current weapons. The Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, also referred as the Iran Sanctions Act, which forbid both foreign and US investment passing 20 million dollars on Iran's energy sector in one year was ratified by the US Congress as well in 1996.

The National Council of Resistance on Iran, the political organ of the terrorist organization Mujahideen-e Khalq (MeK), held a media conference and declared publicly that Iranian government has built nuclear facilities near Natanz and Arak. By attracting all the concerned eyes of the international community, The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors adopted the resolution GOV/2003/69 in 2003 which specifically calls for Iran to suspend all uranium enrichment and related activities on nuclear energy and allow IAEA officials to take environmental samples from any location at its facilities. Even though Iran agreed to suspend its uranium enrichment activities and approved the access of the IAEA officials and inspectors to these sites in the country, the IAEA blamed Iranian government for neglecting to cooperate with IAEA officials during inspections. In 2004 Iran officially informed the IAEA that it was going to suspend uranium enrichment related activities following the negotiations with France, Germany, and the UK. In fact, in 2005 Iranian government initiated the production of uranium hexafluoride at its Isfahan facility. As a result, France, Germany, and the UK ended negotiations with Iran. Thus, Iran's ongoing nuclear activities and the lack of affirmation on the issue provided to IAEA started to concern P5 (China, France, Germany, Russia, United Kingdom, and United States) members of the UN Security Council. A special meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors mentioned Iran to the UNSC in order for the Iranian Government to suspend its enrichment related activities, and fully cooperate with the agency's investigation. Even though Iran points out the IAEA that it was going to enhance the implementation of the additional protocol and eliminate the actions on inspection procedures, Iran announced that it

has enriched uranium for the first time in 2006 as well. Regarding this global announcement, P5 members of the UNSC and Germany (P5+1) proposed a framework agreement to Iranian government itself in order to halt its enrichment program indefinitely. Iran rejected to suspend its enrichment program yet declared that the elements they have reached may be useful for a global constructive and cooperative use. After a long period of negotiations, the IAEA and Iran agreed upon a work plan for Iran to have clear responses to the questions of the international community. While UNSC was imposing sanctions perpetually on Iran, the P5+1 members presented a new solution proposal to Iran putting forward a “freeze for freeze” process where Iran would halt its enrichment activities while the UNSC would not impose any additional sanctions.

On 12 June 2009 Iran held presidential elections where Incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is declared as the president, there were many indications that the election was biased. This gave rise to many protests and revolts within Iran which postponed the efforts to address Iran’s nuclear program in the international community. After the national elections in Iran following of the same year within the cooperation of the governments of US, UK and France United States President Barack Obama, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy announced that Iran has been constructing a secret, second uranium enrichment facility in the city, Fordow. IAEA agent mentioned that Iran informed the agency upon the existence of the facility, but US intelligence officials separately mentioned that Iran confirmed only after learning that it had been discovered by the US officials. Following this, Iran initiated the process of producing 20 percent enriched uranium for the Tehran Research Reactor (TRR).

In 2010 Brazil, Iran, and Turkey had a joint declaration in attempt of proposing fuel swap for TRR where France, Russia, and the US rejected the declaration by addressing Iran’s advanced enrichment facilities and overall nuclear capability.

In January 2011 the P5+1 met with Iran in Istanbul on the issue of Iran not halting its nuclear activities, correspondingly the two sides didn’t reach a common ground at first because of the Iran’s two main preconditions to the agreement. The preconditions were having the right of uranium enrichment and the removal of sanctions, which were rejected by the P5+1. After the meeting, Iranian government announced that their intentions of uranium enrichment have been expanding. Regarding that intensive negotiations started between P5+1 and Iran in the hostages of different countries such as Turkey, Italy and Switzerland in order to agree upon mutual framework and actions.

In 2013, Hassan Rouhani was elected as the president of Islamic Republic of Iran. Being a former nuclear negotiator, he affirmed that Iran will maintain its nuclear program, in terms being more transparent. After a short period of time he called for the continuation of extended negotiations with the P5+1 on Iran's nuclear program. Former US President Barack Obama called Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, while mentioning that there will be significant obstacles to overcome, he believed that a resolution can be reached by showing optimistic approach and the support of US government on the issue.

During the extensive negotiations period, Iran and the P5+1 signed the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) agreement which set steps to be taken in 6 months period for both sides by being the first step of a more comprehensive agreement. In return, Iran

received limited relief due to the removal of certain sanctions. On 20 January 2014 the implementation of the JPOA begun. The IAEA released a report on Iran's compliance with the deal regarding to the agreement. Iran and the P5+1 announced a comprehensive deal in 2015 which the Barack Obama administration sent the comprehensive deal to US Congress. On 14 July 2015 the P5+1 States and Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) even though there was strong opposition in both the Iranian and the US governments, legislation was passed in the US Congress and the Iranian Parliament ratified the deal. Iran begun taking steps on restricting its nuclear program. Based on the IAEA report it is verified that Iran met its nuclear related requirements. With the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, passed to support the deal and the lifting of UN sanctions.

As the presidential elections was drawing nearer in the US, Donald Trump mentioned to renegotiate JCPOA during his presidential campaign. On 8 November 2016 Donald Trump was elected as the new president of the United States. Regarding this statement of him, the P5+1 indicated that they would resist the action of US government to renegotiate the deal. Following of 2016, US Congress approved the 10 year extension of the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA). In regardance to this, president Rouhani announced Iranian government will respond to extension of the ISA by extending research and developments on nuclear energy. Despite of this statement; according to the biannual report of UNSC and quarterly report of IAEA released in 2017, it is affirmed that Iran was still complying with the JCPOA.

Donald Trump administration has abandoned sanctions on Iran in order to meet with the deal which displays their constructive approach to the issue. In spite of this action Trump administration declared that they would reissue the remissions on nuclear related sanctions on Iran and also added that they would withdraw from the deal if the US Congress not ratifies their legislation. Immediately after the announcement, governments of UK, Germany and France released a joint statement expressing their continuous support for the JCPOA. On May 2018 Trump declared that the government of US will withdraw from the JCPOA and signed a presidential directive to impose the highest level of economic sanctions on Iran. This "highest level" of sanctions include that prohibiting Iran's purchase of US dollars, trade of gold, other precious metals, aluminum, steel, coal, software, automotive sector with Iran and financial transactions happen to be made upon US Government. President Rouhani announced that Iran will continue negotiations with the other states in the agreement.

In May 2018 EU High Representative Federica Mogherini called for a meeting with the foreign ministers of France, Germany, UK, and Iran in order to discuss future work to be done following the US violation of the JCPOA. They agreed on having solution proposals on the following issues:

1. Maintaining and strengthening economic relations with Iran
2. The continued sale of Iran's oil, petroleum products and gas
3. Effective financial banking transactions with Iran in order to assist the process of economic and financial cooperation
4. Continued sea, land, air and rail transportation with Iran
5. Development of a more transparent cooperation environment in Iran

As the second round of sanctions on Iran following US withdrawal from the JCPOA, targeting Iran's banking, oil, shipping and such come into action. Following this International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that US must remove sanctions on the "export of food, agricultural products, medicine, aircraft parts, and other humanitarian goods". Yet the Court did not ruled the removal of all sanctions.

Evaluation of Other Issues:

It is vital to understand that the destruction of the Iran Deal would inevitably lead to the reintroduction of the Iranian nuclear programme. It is argued that Iranian Government would be able to construct a nuclear bomb by 2017 if the deal did not put its programme into action. If Iran obtains a nuclear bomb it is certain that this would destroy the non-proliferation regime accepted internationally within the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). Even though JCPOA is beneficial for Iranian government indeed, not only because it has relieved Iran from the economical burden of the sanctions, but adding officially more than 100 billion USD back to national fund. Moreover it allowed Iran to collaborate and build trade partnerships more closely with European Members, Russia, and China which resulted positively for Iran for its static economy.

RELEVANT ACTORS AND BODIES

UNSC

- July 2006: The UNSC adopted Resolution 1696, representing the IAEA's numerous calls and warnings for Iran to suspend its enrichment related activities.
- December 2006: The UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 1737, imposing sanctions on Iran for to suspend its enrichment related activities due to its previous failure. The currently imposed sanctions prohibited countries from trading of nuclear and missile related technology with Iran.
- March 2007: The UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 1747 in response to Iran's continued failure to comply with the Council's demands on suspending Uranium enrichment.
- March 2008: The UNSC passed Resolution 1803. It asked for the urgent attempts of member states on the prevention of Iran from acquiring nuclear or missile technology.
- June 2010: The UNSC adopted Resolution 1929, which expanded sanctions against Iran significantly. The resolution also imposes an arms embargo on Iran.

European Union

- July 2010: The EU agreed to impose further sanctions on Iran in the areas of trade, financial services, energy, transport, as well as an additional visa ban.
- January 2012: The EU accepted a decision that will ban all member countries from importing Iranian oil.
- EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini stated that the EU is committed to the JCPOA as long as Iran continues to implement its nuclear related commitments too.

International Atom Energy Agency (IAEA)

It plays a significant role in the monitoring and following of the actions, developments, changes on the Iranian nuclear energy facilities. It is crucial in the affirmation of the requirements of the agreements accepted by the Iranian government by arranging constant and perpetual inspections. With the gathered data the international

community was to be informed. Thus within the aforementioned reports addressed in the “Historical Background of the Issue” section, the agency has released and presented valid information and statistics which had the primary role on leading the international community in the way of taking actions.

Iran

Since the topic of this chair report mainly concerns the Islamic Republic of Iran, its place mentioned throughout the whole report.

UK

- 2017: UK Prime Minister Theresa May, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron released a joint statement displaying their constant support for the JCPOA.
- 2018: State Department Director of Policy Planning Brian Hook met with the representatives from the E3 (France, Germany, and the UK) to continue discussions on the JCPOA and Trump's demand for an effective agreement. After, the officials from the mentioned members have indicated their regret and concern towards the Trump's decision.

USA

- December 2007: The United States publicly released a new National Intelligence Estimate report on Iran's nuclear program stating that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003 and hadn't been proceeded until 2007. The report also said that Iran was believed to be capable of producing enough highly enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon.
- June 2010: US Congress adopted the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act; extending sanctions until 2016, and imposing new sanctions on companies that sell refined petroleum to Iran.
- April 2019: US President Trump announced to halt waivers for several countries. The Trump administration has mentioned their decisiveness on the sanctions on Iran's oil exports until it meets a list of demands, including ending Iran's support for militants across the particular regions and halting uranium enrichment.
- May 2019: The Trump administration on Friday imposed new sanctions on Iran's nuclear activities but allowed several waivers that allow Iran to receive international assistance for the conversion of Tehran nuclear facility to public center. This decision also led to an internal argument in the administration, within the White House and State Department officials. National Security Adviser John Bolton supported implementing all current waivers while the US Congress urged the administration to remove all waivers for Iran's nuclear activities. Yet, European governments, including Britain, France and Germany, had requested to the White House not to cancel all the waivers for civilian nuclear cooperation.

China

- Iran has given Europe and China an ultimatum to stand up against the US on the international grounds. President Rouhani indicated that if the ultimatum is not met within the time constraints of 60 days, Iran will also end a Chinese led initiative to rebuild its heavy water reactor in Arak.
 - EU responded as they reject any ultimatums and will assess Iran's compliance within Iran's actions regarding its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA.
- As a huge oil importer and signatory to the JCPOA, China addressed the agreement's benefits both for the international community and the Iranian government. If the ultimatum was not met by the Chinese government, the route to producing plutonium would be open once more since the heavy water can be used in nuclear reactors to operate using natural uranium.

Since it is one of the P5 members, Chinese government included all of the actions, negotiations, agreements aforementioned as well.

Russia

- 2005: Russia and Iran concluded a nuclear fuel supply agreement in which Russia would provide fuel for the Bushehr reactor in Iran and Iran would return the spent nuclear fuel to Russia. This was aimed to prevent Iran from extracting plutonium for nuclear weapons from the spent nuclear fuel.
- May 2011: Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy concluded the construction and operation of the Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant which began operations successfully.
- July 2011: Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov displayed a proposal where Iran would increase cooperation with the IAEA and perform confidence building actions in return of mitigation of sanctions.
- In November 2014 Iran and Russia signed an agreement to build two new nuclear reactors at the Bushehr site, with an option of six more at other sites later.
- Russia's foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, with Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iranian foreign minister mentioned that The US under the Trump administration is to blame since their conduct makes it difficult for both Iran to fulfill its obligations and the general nuclear nonproliferation regime. As they addressed their will on the agreement not collapse
- In fact of that statement, Russia is benefiting from a side effect of US sanctions on Iran, since majority of the member states can't buy Iranian oil without risking the relations with US.
- It is displayed that relations between Russia and Iran are stronger than they have been historically.

Germany

Even though its NATO ally, the US, has withdrawn from the Deal, Germany continues to support the implementation of the JCPOA. Germany was contented from the achievements of the Deal, since Iran met IAEA standards in its nuclear activity while German businesses could trade with Iranian counterparts. It is in complete interests of Germany to take the role of deal broker and its role has gained more importance as many European countries remain in the backbench and as the UK is having its domestic problems.

Israel

- September 2012: in a speech of the Israeli Prime Minister at the UN General Assembly, drew attention to a possible Israeli attack on Iran. He defined the boundary line as Iran compiling 20 percent enriched uranium which will be enough for one nuclear bomb.
- Israel was one of the most vocal opponents of the nuclear negotiations with Iran. Israel indicated was doubtful of the efficiency of the diplomatic strategy pursued by the P5+1 to address the Iranian nuclear issue. Israel continued to express its concerns on the JCPOA in July 2015 to effectively address its core concerns. Israel mentioned their constant concerns on the issue of Iran's ability to threaten Israel in the locations on the Israel's northern border, particularly through Iran's support for Hizballah and its growing presence in Syria.

Brazil

Brazilian government was included in the joint declaration with Turkey toward Iran which issued the nuclear fuel swap proposal.

Turkey

- Turkish government was an active factor as most of the negotiations hosted in Istanbul during the process of reaching to common ground for the sides of Iran and P5+1.
- It was also contained in the joint proposal of nuclear fuel swap.

TREATIES AND INITIATIVES:

Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) on 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely. A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. The Treaty is regarded as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential for the activity of nuclear disarmament. It was designated to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, with further goals of nuclear disarmament and complete disarmament.

Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) or the Geneva Interim Agreement Signed in Geneva in 2013, which is the precursor of the JCPOA. It was concluded by Iran and the states which form the P5+1 of the UN, and the EU. By the Joint Plan of Action, Iran accepted to halt its nuclear program in exchange for the temporary lifting of some of the sanctions imposed on its economy. It is a partial agreement, which remained effective for a period of six months, even though it was extended afterwards repeatedly until a final agreement was reached in 2015.

The following requirements of **JCPOA** that are set for Iran in order to be eased from the economic sanctions of the JCPOA. There are several requirements that the agreement consists and which Iran has accepted to comply. First, Iran must reduce the number of operational centrifuges it had in the time of the signing of the agreement. Furthermore, approximately in ten years period not only the amount but also the types of the centrifuges as well. By accepting the agreement, Iran also assures to limit its research and development area. Secondly, according to the framework of the JCPOA, Iran is required to convert its nuclear facility in Fordow into a civilian research and development centre. Moreover in 2015, following the signing

of the agreement, the nuclear plant was reorganized to comply with the requirement. In addition to that, for a further time period, the facility in Fordow will not conduct any uranium enrichment activity. Inspections must be done by the IAEA officials in order to make sure that undeclared nuclear material does not exist in the facility and that prohibited uranium enrichment activities aren't taken. Another commitment of Iran is that the Arak Nuclear Complex for 'heavy water production' would be rebuilt for the reduction of the plutonium production in spent fuel since Heavy water is one of the two required materials for operating nuclear reactors and uranium enrichment activities. Therefore, the reactor in Arak Nuclear Complex will not produce plutonium for weapons.

TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

July 2006	UNSC adopts the resolution 1696 on Iran's nuclear program the first in a series of sc measures against Iran's nuclear activities
June 2013	Hassan Rouhani is elected Iran's president on the promise of improving Iran's relations with the strain of nuclear related sanctions on the economy
November 2013	Iran and the P5 + 1 reached a temporary agreement on Iran's nuclear program referred as the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA)
July 2015	Iran and the P5+1 signed the JCPOA
January 2016	Implementation of the JCPOA and the removal of international sanctions commences since IAEA has verified Iran's JCPOA compliance.
May 2018	US withdrew from JCPOA and re-imposed sanctions
January 2019	Europe prepares to launch a banking channel assisting trade with Iran regardless the US sanctions

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

1. Why did Iran show significant interest in nuclear energy and its development until today? What is its intentions maintaining advanced nuclear technology?
2. Why is Iran committed to do uranium enhancement related nuclear activities?
3. Why is Iran's nuclear program considered to be a threat by the majority of the international community?
4. Why did Iran face numerous close inspections on the topic of uranium enrichment?
5. Why did US sign the JCPOA in the first place?
6. Why did US completely withdraw from the JCPOA by imposing destructive sanctions on Iran and trading countries with Iran?
7. What are the factors play a role in the withdrawal of US form JCPOA?
8. What is its income from withdrawing the agreement?
9. Why is JCPOA important for the EU?

10. Why is it important for the EU, China, Israel to maintain its relationships with Iran?
11. How can the EU not harm its relationships with the US while handling through the issue?

USEFUL LINKS AND SOURCES

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The sources given in the "Useful Links and Sources" section, are also taken as references in the making of this report.