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## Security Council (SC)

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### ASSESSING THE VIABILITY OF THE IRANIAN DEAL

**Student Officer:** Charilaos Otimos

**Position:** Deputy President

**President:** George Dougalis

**International  
Community**

**Memorable  
Experience**

**Challenges  
Skills**



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# PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Charilaos Otimos, and I am an IB2 student at Geitonas school. I enjoy History, Politics and International Relations, as well as travelling and keep track of current affairs. I will be serving as the Deputy President of the Security Council for this year's CSMUN and as the expert on the topic of "Assessing the viability of the Iranian Deal". Whilst I hope this study guide will provide you with all the necessary knowledge to tackle such a complex topic, I encourage you to make your own research and figure out creative and original solutions. I wish you the best of luck!

Kind Regards,

**Charilaos Otimos**



# INTRODUCTION

Iran and six world powers known as the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) reached a historic nuclear deal on July 14, 2015 that limited Iran's nuclear program and enhanced monitoring in exchange for relief from nuclear sanctions. Prior to that, Iran had been engaged in efforts to acquire the capability to build nuclear weapons for more than two decades. Although it remained uncertain whether Iran would have made the final decision to build nuclear weapons, it had developed a range of technologies, including uranium enrichment, warhead design, and delivery systems, that would give it this option in a relatively short time frame.

U.S. President Donald Trump attacked the Iran Deal numerous times during his campaign and in May 2018 he withdrew the United States from the agreement. This caused numerous reactions from other P5+1 nations, who continue to support the deal and Iran's path to de-nuclearization. The issue that must be addressed is with the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions, how can the international community protect an agreement that helped reduce proliferation in an unstable part of the world and was widely endorsed by the UN Security Council?



## **DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS**

- ***Iran (Islamic Republic of)***

Iran is a country situated in the Middle East with a population of 81 million inhabitants. Its capital and biggest city is Teheran.

- ***IAEA***

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

- ***P5+1***

It refers to the UN Security Council's five permanent members (the P5); namely China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; plus Germany.

- ***JCPOA***

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action known commonly as the Iran nuclear deal or the Iran deal, is an agreement on the nuclear program of Iran reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015 between Iran, the P5+1



## **TIMELINE**

1974: The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) is established

1979: The Iranian Revolution and the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran result in a severing of U.S.-Iranian ties and damages Iran's relationship with the West.

SEP 2003: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors adopts a resolution calling for Iran to suspend all enrichment – and reprocessing- related activities. The resolution requires Iran to declare all material relevant to its uranium-enrichment program and allow IAEA inspectors to conduct environmental sampling at any location.

APR 2006: Iran announces that it has enriched uranium for the first time

JUN 2006: The P5+1 proposes a framework agreement to Iran offering incentives for Iran to halt its enrichment program for an indefinite period of time.

JUL2006: The UN Security Council (UNSC) adopts Resolution 1696, making the IAEA's calls for Iran to suspend enrichment –related and reprocessing activities legally binding for the first time.

AUG 2006: Iran rejects the P5+1 proposal

DEC 2006: The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1737, imposing sanctions on Iran for its failure to suspend its enrichment-related activities.

FEB 2009: Iran announces that it successfully carried out its first satellite launch, raising international concerns that Iran's ballistic missile potential was growing.

JUN 2010: The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1929, significantly expanding sanctions against Iran. In addition to tightening proliferation-related sanctions and banning Iran from carrying out nuclear-capable ballistic missile tests, the resolution imposes an arms embargo on the transfer of major weapons systems to Iran.

JAN 2012: The European Union (EU) passes a decision that will ban all member countries from importing Iranian oil

JUN 2013: Hassan Rouhani is elected president of Iran. A former nuclear negotiator, he asserts that Iran will maintain its nuclear program, but offers to be more transparent.

FEB 2014: Negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 on the comprehensive agreement begin in Vienna. The parties agree on an agenda and framework to guide the talks



MAR 2015: 47 U.S. senators sign an open letter to the Parliament of Iran. The letter warns that any deal reached without legislative approval could be revised by the next president “with the stroke of a pen.”

JUL 2015: - Iran and the P5+1 announce a comprehensive deal.

- The Obama administration sends the comprehensive deal and supporting documents to Congress, beginning the 60-day review period mandated by the Iran Nuclear Deal Review Act.

- The UNSC unanimously passes a resolution endorsing the nuclear deal and the lifting of UN nuclear sanctions once key steps are taken in the deal.

SEP 2015: The U.S. congressional review period ends without passage of a resolution of approval or a resolution of disapproval.

OCT 2015: - Iran's parliament approves a detailed bill supporting the Iran deal.

- Iran and the P5+1 formally adopt the nuclear deal. Iran begins taking steps to restrict its nuclear program. The U.S. issues waivers on nuclear-related sanctions to come into effect on implementation day. The EU announces it passed legislation to lift nuclear-related sanctions on implementation day.

JAN 2016: The IAEA verifies that Iran met its nuclear related commitments.

MAR 2016: - Iran test launches two different variations of the Qadr medium-range ballistic missile.

- U.S. Ambassador to the UN says she raised Iran's ballistic missile tests at a UNSC meeting, saying that the tests are inconsistent with Resolution 2231.

- Iranian Foreign Minister defends Iran's missile launches saying that the missiles are permissible under Resolution 2231 because the missiles are not designed to be capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

- Then-candidate Trump delivers remarks to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's annual conference, noting his “number one priority is to dismantle the disastrous deal with Iran.”

NOV 2016: Donald Trump is elected as the President of the U.S. During the presidential campaign, Trump referred to the JCPOA as the worst deal ever negotiated and pledged to renegotiate it. The U.S.'s European allies in the P5+1 previously signaled they would resist efforts to renegotiate the deal.

JAN 2017: Iran test fires a medium-range ballistic missile, in defiance of Resolution 2231. The test prompts U.S. National Security Advisor to declare the United States has placed Iran “on notice.”



APR 2017: U.S. Secretary of State certifies to Congress that Iran is compliant in meeting its obligations under the JCPOA.

OCT 2017: Trump encourages Congress to enact legislation against the JCPOA's "sunset clauses" which set dates after which certain restrictions under the deal on Iran's nuclear program will no longer apply. Trump says if his concerns about the deal are not resolved he will terminate the agreement. Immediately following the announcement, the leaders of the UK, Germany and France released a joint statement expressing their continued support for the JCPOA.

DEC 2017: UN Secretary General issues the biannual report on the implementation of Resolution 2231. The report notes that the nuclear deal is being implemented but finds that Iran has violated the arms embargo provisions of Resolution 2231.

MAY 2018: President Trump announces that he is withdrawing the U.S. from the JCPOA and signs a presidential memorandum to institute the "highest level" of economic sanctions on Iran. In an address following Trump's announcement Iranian President announces that Iran will continue negotiations with the other states in the agreement in order to try to continue the deal without the US. European members of the P5+1 re-state their continued commitment to the deal and pledge to work with all parties to make sure its terms are upheld. EU foreign policy chief states that the EU is committed to JCPOA as long as Iran continues to implement its nuclear related commitments, as it has so far.

MAY 2018: U.S. Secretary of State presents the Trump administration's new strategy on Iran promising to "apply unprecedented financial pressure on the Iranian regime" and work with allies to deter Iranian aggression.

JUL 2018: Ten U.S. Senators write a letter to the French, German, and British ambassadors urging compliance with the sanctions reimposed by Trump and warning against efforts to block or circumvent the measures. The letter says it would be "particularly troubling if you sought to evade or undermine American statutes" and doing so "could well prompt Congressional action."

AUG 2018: In a joint statement the EU foreign ministers say they "deeply regret the re-imposition of sanctions by the US" and note that they are "determined to protect European economic operators engaged in legitimate business with Iran, in accordance with EU law and with UNSC resolution 2231." They reiterate that preserving the JCPOA is a "matter of respecting international agreements and a matter of international security."

SEP 2018: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports that Iran is implementing all nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA.



## TOPIC DISCUSSION

It is vital to understand that the destruction of the Iran Deal would inevitably lead to the re-introduction of the Iranian nuclear programme. Some experts argue that Iran would be able to construct a nuclear bomb by 2017 if the deal did not put its programme to a halt. If Iran obtains a nuclear bomb it is certain that other Middle Eastern regional powers would want to construct one too in order to maintain the balance of power in this conflict-torn region. This would destroy the non-proliferation regime that exist today, something detrimental for the safety of the people in the region. Delegates must also take into consideration the fact that this deal is beneficial for Iran too, not only because it freed more than 100bn USD that were previously unreachable due to sanctions, but also because it allowed Iran to build trade partnerships with economic powerhouses something that had a great result for its stagnating economy. Moreover, the UNSC has been a strong supporter of the deal from the beginning, thus the main focus of this committee will be to address the problems that occur from the withdrawal of the U.S. and strive to maintain the deal.



## CAUSES

The viability of the Iran Deal is in danger due to the withdrawal of the US. President Donald Trump has stated many times that one of the problems the Iran Deal faces is that Teheran does not conform to the “spirit” of the deal and continues to arm terrorist groups like Hezbollah or support Assad in the Syrian Civil War, none of which are prohibited under JCPOA. President Trump also claims that he can negotiate a better deal. However, neither the rest of the P5+1, nor Iran have agreed to initiate a new phase of negotiations. Finally, President Trump raises the issue of “sunset clauses”, meaning clauses that will eventually expire (for example, limits on uranium enrichment were agreed upon only for 15 years). Thus, Trump believes that Iran uses the sanctions relief in order to bring its economy back to its feet and then disobey its commitments and proceed with a nuclear armament.

Iran’s ambassador to the UN has accused the US of “making history not just by violating a United Nations security council resolution it voted for three years ago, but also by penalizing countries who stick to the same unanimous resolution”. “For the first time in the history of the United Nations, the United States – a permanent member of the Security Council with veto power – is engaging in penalizing nations across the entire world; not for violating a security council resolution, rather, for abiding by it”, he continues. The accusations of the Iranian ambassador deteriorate the climate making an approach of the two sides seem unlikely.



## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

The viability of the Iran Deal is dependent directly to the economic aspect of the situation. It was what created the deal in the first place and it is what threatens it the most. Delegates must figure out creative ways in order to overcome the sanctions imposed by the US and achieve to continue trade with Teheran. Some examples may be protecting multinational companies from US sanctions (that would hurt them if they are trading with the US) by using “blocking regulation”, guarantee export credits, or even give loans to Iran to build its infrastructure and fund its industry.

If the delegates want to pursue a more optimistic approach to the situation, they have to find ways to satisfy the demands and persuade the US delegation to rejoin JCPOA without violating the terms of the deal itself (because these would have to be negotiated with Iran). These may include a separate agreement between the P5+1 that commit to take further action if Iran doesn't comply with the terms or extensions to the “sunset clauses”. However, if the delegates decide to pursue this course, they must be aware of the power and alliance structure in the Middle East and the relationship between the countries involved, as described below.



## MAJOR COUNTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

*Iran (Islamic Republic of):* It has tense relations with many western countries because of the 1979 revolution and the establishment of a theocratic regime which steered Iran in a close alliance with Russia. Also, its position as a Middle Eastern regional power that does not align with western interests, makes it inherently hostile towards western countries. Moreover, the continuous accusations of violations of human rights from western nations have further alienated these two blocks. This has as a result the eternal wish for production of weapons of mass destruction in order to protect itself from -what Iran sees as- an imminent hostile invasion. However, sanctions imposed by the UNSC had left Iran's economy in a dire state. The fact that JCPOA gives Iran's economy the chance to recover makes Teheran to fully support it.

*United States of America:* JCPOA was generally considered as one of the greatest successes of the Obama administration. However, the opinion of the Trump administration is totally different. It believes that JCPOA only allows Iran to boost its economy and then return to nuclear militarization. Thus, President Trump wants to re-impose sanctions, destroy this deal and negotiate a better one.

*European Union:* The EU wants to preserve this deal. JCPOA does not only protect it from the threat of a nuclear armed neighbor, but also opens up a very big market for European companies.

*Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China:* Both Russia and China, while being Teheran's allies (the first for geopolitical interests and the latter for economic interests), back the deal. They cannot support a nuclear armed Middle Eastern state, because that would trigger a chain reaction with its adversaries, thus an end to the non-proliferation regime.



## UN INVOLVEMENT: Relevant Resolutions & Treaties

Despite the fact that the Iran Deal was not negotiated through the UN, the UNSC endorsed it and cancelled the sanctions on Iran with Resolution 2231.

### Research Questions

It is the delegates' responsibility to remain updated for this topic. For example, during the UN General Assembly week a UNSC meeting will be chaired by President Trump on the topic of Iran. The delegates are encouraged to be fully aware of its outcome.

The delegates can learn more about Iran's stance on the topic by reading its Ambassador's article here: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/aug/08/donald-trump-sanctions-iran-international-law>

An overview of the topic is provided by the UK house of commons here: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/world-affairs/defence/iran-nuclear-deal-what-next/>

The delegates are encouraged to seek for creative and out of the box solutions for the topic.

Also, they are encouraged to be fully aware of their countries' stance on the issue.



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