

Speech

Good afternoon fellow diplomats. As the delegation chair of China, I speak on behalf of my country when I say we concur with the international community that Iran's nuclear enrichment program is a pressing matter—one that deserves deliberations like the one we are attending today. After these negotiations, we hope to come to a consensus that does not include Western hegemonic bullying but instead mutual compromise.

As you all know, China has seen massive economic growth in the past few decades. We are now the second largest economy after the United States, with a current account balance of 280.6 billion dollars. If only to give others a sense of this growth, the U.S. has an account balance of negative 599.9 billion dollars and we hold well over \$1 trillion of their debt. We do not wish to insult your intelligence by claiming that Iran is not important to our economic growth and the economic growth of all countries. We, like many Eastern nations, want to continue to benefit from a steady supply of this foreign fuel to drive a booming economy. However, we also believe that our interests are in the interests of the rest of the world as well. Like any country, China hopes to see her upward trajectory continue, and we believe the best route towards prolonged success is a stable Middle East. Furthermore, we believe China is the most important player in this stability because of our amicable relationship with Iran.

China does not believe harsh sanctions are the answer to nuclear procurement and they will therefore be strongly opposed by Chinese diplomats. Contrary to popular belief, it is not the prerogative of Western countries to dictate the domestic or economic affairs of foreign nations simply because their ideologies are deemed "exotic." Imposing harsh sanctions against other countries is unauthorized and does more damage to civilian life than to the targeted regime. Sanctions will only increase instability in the Middle East, something I think we can all agree would be detrimental to the security of the world.

China believes in every country's right to defend itself, especially a country with such hostile neighbors as Iran's, and cannot deny that nuclear weapons are the most effective form of defense available to countries today. However, we also agree that transparency in a nuclear world is vital if peace is to be maintained. The biggest threat is the one unseen, and we therefore urge Iran to increase the transparency of its nuclear program to preserve Middle Eastern stability. That is not to say they must be as obvious as the West demands, but we urge them to be more open than they currently are. Updating their safeguards from those enacted in 1979 to those in place now and giving the international community access to more of its plants are good ways to start.

However, nuclear weapon states must be prepared to compromise if they want their pleas to be heard. To demand transparency without giving anything in return is, though characteristic of the West, also ineffective. We therefore urge the West to follow our lead and implement a No-First Use policy. We do not live in a world where the demands of certain countries can be met through harsh sanctions and unrealistic expectations, and we therefore hope all countries will follow our lead and be open to cooperation.

Thank you.