

Opening Statement for the Diplomatic Conference
on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Nuclear Program
15:00 Friday April 6, 2012

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Let me start by saying thank you all for being here this afternoon and to all those involved in organizing this diplomatic conference. It is our hope that significant progress regarding the peaceful resolution of current situation with Iran will be realized by the conclusion of this conference. It is our pleasure to be here today to engage in a serious discussion about the Iranian nuclear program, and also present to you the objectives and goals of the United States of America concerning international nuclear nonproliferation, and the nuclear activities in Iran.

Before we begin I must stress that this conference is intended to promote open discussion and build trust between the participating nations. Yesterday evening US delegates discovered and removed recording devices hidden by the Iranian delegation in the assigned meeting rooms for the French, Russian, Pakistani, and US delegations. We have already alerted these three nations to this gross infraction of diplomatic interactions. The placement of the recording devices represents Iranian disrespect for the current negotiations and a serious breach of our trust. In response, we demand that the Iranian delegation publicly and verbally apologize as well as issue a corresponding written document. If these steps are not taken our capacity to trust Iran and engage in further discussions with them will be severely compromised. These Iranian actions are a disgrace to this conference. We want this conference to continue smoothly and, again, hope to reach meaningful resolutions with all participating parties.

Our core objective for this conference is to peacefully resolve all conflicts between the nations here today in regards to the nuclear situation in Iran. We are deeply concerned about Iranian nuclear capabilities owing to the fact that they have repeatedly supplied conventional weapons to terrorist organizations and concealed their nuclear activities. Until Iran can prove to the world that their intentions are truly peaceful and that their nuclear activities are solely intended for the development of their energy sector we cannot allow for such audacious behavior from them. We call for Iran to comply with all IAEA, NPT and international safeguards in order to ensure stability in the region. We desire a more secure world in which there is no possibility of a large-scale nuclear crisis. This cannot be accomplished unless Iran decides to terminate their uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities. Of course, we want to achieve these objectives peacefully. However, all options are and will remain on the table. We call on all other nations to take a similar, responsible stand on this issue.

Having said this, it must be remembered that we find it desirable to develop cooperative ties with Iran in order to foster a beneficial and reciprocal relationship, rather than bear witness to the estrangement of a sovereign nation. It is our greatest hope that we can come together as an international community to work towards nuclear nonproliferation ensured by compliance with international safeguards, and a world in which nations can pursue freedom and democracy without fear or constraint. Thank you very much.