

Security Council Study Guide: Iranian Nuclear Program

STUDY GUIDE UPDATE

Following a bill presented by U.S. senators including “prospective sanctions” against Iran, more than 200 Iranian MPs have prepared a draft bill envisaging uranium enrichment up to 60% if the U.S. senate would approve new sanctions.

Nevertheless, the third round of Geneva talks has taken place on the last two days of December 2013, and proved to be fruitful. Both sides pointed out that progress has been made regarding details on how to implement the Joint Plan of Action agreed on in November. According to Iranian officials, the Geneva accord will be implemented in late January. However, the P5+1 did not confirm that a timetable has been agreed upon, stating only that work remained to be done but an agreement was close.

Abbas Araqchi (Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs) and Helga Schmid (deputy for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton) will probably meet next week for resolving the remaining issues.

Already now, the positive impact of the Geneva deal can be seen as Iran was able to reinforce its trade ties strengthening Iran’s economy.

Nevertheless, it is not clear – even within the P5+1 negotiators – whether Iran can spin and conduct research on more advanced centrifuges. Amongst others, this point has to be clarified at a later stage.

On January 20, 2014, EU foreign ministers will meet in Brussels and might discuss about alleviating sanctions regarding Iran.

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