



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA media release - for immediate release, 25th November 2013

NFLA welcomes agreement signed between Iran and 'P5+1' countries as a positive sign for nuclear weapons non-proliferation

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) warmly welcomes the agreement that was signed at the weekend between Iran and the 'P5+1' countries – USA, UK, Russia, France, China and Germany – to control its nuclear programme and significantly reduce the potential for it to develop a nuclear weapons capability.

In the agreement, Iran has agreed to:

- Halt enrichment of uranium above 5% purity. This will prevent it from developing nuclear weapons, which needs uranium enriched to 90%.
- "Neutralise" its existing stockpile of near-20%-enriched uranium. This will be achieved by diluting it to less than 5% or converting it into a form which cannot be further enriched.
- Not install any more of the centrifuges which can be used to enrich uranium.
- Leave 50% - 75% of centrifuges installed in the Natanz and Fordo enrichment facilities inoperable.
- Not to build any more uranium enrichment facilities.
- Not to increase its stockpile of 3.5% low-enriched uranium.
- Halt work on the construction of its heavy-water reactor at Arak so as not to attempt to produce plutonium there. Plutonium is a key ingredient for the construction of nuclear weapons.
- Provide daily access to the Natanz and Fordo sites to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors.
- Provide detailed information on the development of the Arak reactor. (1)

In return the 'P5+1' group have agreed to reduce the burden of tough UN economic sanctions imposed on Iran several years ago. Though a six month interim agreement, strong momentum is in place for hopefully a more comprehensive agreement in 2014.

The NFLA welcomes the hard work that has gone into reaching this agreement from all sides, including the UK Government. Following the recent successful agreement to destroy Syria's chemical weapons programme, this is another example of the benefits of using diplomacy over military conflagration as a tool for successful foreign policy.

The NFLA now calls on the United Nations and the Finnish Government to continue this momentum by holding the postponed conference on the development of a Middle East WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) Free Zone as soon as it is practical to do so.

The NFLA also calls on the P5 states to now show the same level of dedication to reduce all existing levels of nuclear weapons; to also wholeheartedly get involved in the United Nations follow-up conference on the 'Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons' taking place in Mexico in February 2014; and to use the momentum of this historic agreement with Iran to play a more positive role at the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference in UN Headquarters, New York in May 2014.

NFLA will continue its close co-operation with the Mayors for Peace, ICAN, CND and other like-minded groups to ensure this positive decision can help in its lobbying for the wider non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and their reduction and eventual abolition. NFLA's Annual Policy Seminar in Cardiff County Hall on the 6th December will be considering such matters with Paul Flynn MP, ICAN-

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UK's Rebecca Johnson and David Lowry, former Director of the European Proliferation Information Centre (2).

Councillor Mark Hackett, Chair of the NFLA, said:

"I am pleased that Iran and the main nuclear weapon states have come to an interim agreement. This should lead to the legitimate concerns of the international community over Iran's nuclear programme being satisfied. This can only be a huge positive in terms of nuclear weapons non-proliferation. NFLA would urge the Iranian Government to go even further and pursue renewable energy alternatives such as solar power, rather than continue with its civil nuclear programme. The agreement with Iran will hopefully reduce tensions in the Middle East. It should now also be the spur for renewed commitment from the nuclear weapon states to finally engage in significant reductions in their own nuclear weapon stocks in the critical UN talks taking place in 2014 and 2015."

Ends

For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930196.

Notes for editors:

- (1) BBC News Online, 25th November. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-25080217>
- (2) NFLA Annual Policy Seminar 2013, Cardiff County Hall, December 6th 2014:
Nuclear security, nuclear weapons and nuclear new build – key issues for consideration by the NFLA
 - 1.30pm Welcome by NFLA Chair and Cardiff NFLA representative.
 - 1.35pm Nuclear security and proliferation – key issues of concern. Dr David Lowry, Former Director of European Proliferation Information Centre
 - 2.00pm The Trident replacement debate in the international nuclear ban debate: prospects for 2014 and 2015 – Dr Rebecca Johnson, Executive Director of Acronmyn Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy
 - 2.25pm Developing a stronger cross-party Parliamentary voice to challenge new nuclear build & nuclear weapons development, Paul Flynn MP, Newport West
 - 2.50pm Panel Discussion for a 3.30pm finish.

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