
Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the UN Security Council meeting to hear the briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (Iran Sanctions Committee) on March 17, 2011

Thank you, Mr President.

2. I would join other colleagues in thanking Ambassador Nester Osorio for presenting the 90-day report of the 1737 Committee. We appreciate the work of the Committee and will continue to participate actively in its work under Ambassador Osorio's Chairmanship.

3. Mr President, Iran is part of what has been defined as India's "proximate neighbourhood". We share a historical and civilizational relationship. The two countries maintain vibrant and lively people-to-people and cultural relations. Iran is a major source of our energy and hydrocarbon supplies, and is thus important for our energy security. We are also discussing with Iran various projects in the energy sector.

4. Iran, located at the crossroads of the Indian sub-continent, Central Asia and Middle East, is an important country and has a role to play in regional issues. We have cooperated with Iran on issues such as restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan as well as in developmental projects such as construction of Zaranj-Delaram road in western Afghanistan. Other areas of cooperation include trade and transit to Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond within the framework of International North-South Transport Corridor, and fight against common threats we face from cross-border terrorism and extremism.

5. Mr President, as a country abiding by all its obligations of international treaties and having strong credentials of non-proliferation, India has taken a consistent stand on the Iran nuclear issue. We support the right of all States, including Iran, to peaceful use of nuclear energy. Exercise of this right should be consistent with their international obligations.

6. As mentioned in the Joint Communiqué issued at the 10th Russia-India-

China Ministerial Meeting at Wuhan in November 2010, Iran is entitled to the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and should at the same time restore international confidence to the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear activities. To that end, we support intensification of efforts to address the Iranian nuclear issue by peaceful means, through dialogue and negotiation. We also believe that the International Atomic Energy Agency has a central role in resolution of technical issues concerning Iranian nuclear programme.

7. Mr President, we also call upon all sides to fully implement the resolutions this Council has adopted. There should be no violation of the measures mandated in those resolutions. At the same time, all efforts should be made to ensure that legitimate trade and economic activities of Iranian entities and those of other countries should not suffer. As member of the 1737 Committee, we will contribute towards Committee's work in that direction.

Thank you, Mr President.

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