



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY !

**Statement by Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj,
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the IAEA,
at the meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors,
on Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security
Council resolution 2231 (2015) (Agenda item 6),
Vienna, 4 March 2021**

Madame Chairperson,

In addition to what has been said on behalf of the European Union, I would like to make several short comments in my national capacity.

Madame Chairperson,

I would like to commend DG Grossi for his commitment to the perseverance of JCPoA in these trying times, showcased by his recent visit to Teheran, which resulted in a temporary bilateral technical understanding allowing the Agency to continue with its necessary verification and monitoring activities for up to three months. Slovenia supports solutions that uphold further implementation of the JCPoA and we appreciate DG's efforts in this direction.

The situation at hand is acute and this is vividly illustrated by the fact that since the last quarterly report, Iran's nuclear activities in breach of the JCPoA have called for eleven subsequent updates. We were informed of activities, such as the enrichment of uranium up to 20% and test production of uranium metal, which visibly depart from justifiable civilian nuclear activities.

Madame Chairperson,

My faith in the JCPoA remains untarnished and I am confident that it has a bright future ahead. However, the time for diplomacy is now, and it can only be facilitated with the discontinuation of further steps away from the JCPoA. As a first step, Iran should return to the provisional implementation of the Additional Protocol.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.