

Talking Points

From the Office of the Consulate General of Israel,
New York and the Tri-state area

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The Nuclear Deal with Iran – Main Points

1. Close examination of the agreement with Iran reveals how dangerous it is. Iran will have two paths to the bomb, one by breaking the deal and one by keeping the deal. Breaking the deal would require overcoming inspections, as both Iran and North Korea have done in the past. Keeping the deal would allow Iran to have an unlimited ability to enrich uranium with full international legitimacy after about 10 years.
2. The lifting of the restrictions on Iran's nuclear program and the sanctions is not tied to any change in Iran's behavior. The deal does not require that Iran cease its regional aggression or its worldwide campaign of terrorism.
3. At the same time, Iran will receive hundreds of billions of dollars in sanctions relief, direct investment and oil sales. This windfall will fund Iran's terrorism and aggression that continue to undermine regional and global stability and that make war – even nuclear war – much more likely.
4. The inspection mechanism is insufficient. It gives Iran up to 24 days before inspectors can visit newly identified suspicious sites (not all nuclear weapons related activities leave detectable traces for many weeks). This is like giving a drug dealer several weeks' notice before searching his house. The agreement also requires divulging to the Iranians the intelligence information on the basis of which the inspection is requested.
5. The deal allows Iran to continue developing advanced centrifuges, which will enable Iran to enrich much more uranium much faster once the deal expires.
6. The so-called “snapback” mechanism for sanctions is ineffective. Among its other flaws, the mechanism exempts long-term contracts signed prior to the reinstatement of sanctions. This incentivizes massive, immediate economic investment in Iran.

7. After years of defying UN Security Council resolutions regarding its illegal, covert nuclear activities, Iran's nuclear program will be granted international legitimacy. Other countries in the Middle East are likely to seek nuclear parity with Iran, sparking a nuclear arms race in the world's most volatile region.

8. Israel has repeatedly presented an alternative to this agreement, including in Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech to Congress:
 - a. The alternative to this bad deal is not war, but a much better deal that genuinely blocks Iran's path to the bomb and that lifts sanctions only after Iran has changed its behavior.
 - b. The pressure of biting sanctions is what forced Iran to the negotiating table. Continued and even increased pressure would make achieving a better deal more likely.
9. Israel is not alone in recognizing the dangers posed by the deal. Iran's Arab neighbors are no less concerned. When Arab states and Israel agree; it's worth paying attention.
10. This deal repeats the mistakes made with North Korea, which is now a nuclear power.
11. There is a national consensus in Israel about the dangers of this deal. It is not a partisan issue in Israel. It shouldn't be a partisan issue in the United States.
12. Israel always reserves the right to defend itself by itself.