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Topic: The Iran Nuclear Energy Crisis

In recent months the Iran nuclear crisis has heightened to new levels. With the actions many countries are proposing to solve this issue, it has become a situation requiring increasing national concern. It is absolutely necessary for Iran to come to an agreement with the rest of the world on the issue of their nuclear technology and the responsibilities associated with it. This conflict has been going on since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, when Iran's relation with other countries, most importantly the United States changed drastically, affecting the cooperation in nuclear programs between the two countries, among other things. In 1995, however, Iran did come to an agreement with Russia regarding nuclear programs. The current crisis with Iran has been ongoing since 2002 when it was disclosed to the public Iran was hiding nuclear facilities. They agreed to inspections by the IAEA. In 2003 Iran revealed it had discovered uranium deposits to be used to develop a nuclear fuel cycle. Later in the year, traces of enriched weapons-grade uranium were discovered. Iran agreed to stop producing the uranium. In 2004 the situation worsened when the United States accused Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons. Since the Iran has intermittently changed its mind on the preparation of enriched uranium. However, this was resumed in 2005, the same year Iran was found in violation of the NPT by the IAEA. Most recently Iran has broken IAEA seal on its Natanz research facility. Heads of states from the United States, Russia, and the European Union are calling for the referral of Iran to the UN Security Council.

As stated in Articles II and III of the NPT are prohibited from acquiring, receiving or developing nuclear weapons and must allow the IAEA to verify its nuclear program does not deviated from peaceful means. Article IV of the treaty does state that as long as a state follows the treaty they have the right to acquire nuclear technology to be used only for peaceful means. Although Iran has recently shown some resistance to the IAEA, the Iranian president insists the technology is for peaceful means. Although Angola does not have a strong opinion or deciding vote on the resolution of this issue, the opinion of the Angolan government is clearly opposed to the making of nuclear weapons. Angola deposited the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on October 14, 1996. Angola was also one of the original African countries signing the Pelindaba Treaty on April 11, 1996. This treaty establishes a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, something of strong interest to most African countries.

Angola is not a country involved in the research and development of nuclear programs. Angola is not interested in and does not support the production of nuclear weapons, as the government does not want to add any more conflicts to the recovering country. Angola does not have a clear proposal or resolution for solving the Iran Nuclear Energy Crisis. However, as Angola is against the production of nuclear weapons in non-nuclear states, Angola is willing to consider the proposals of other countries expressing the same views, particularly countries that have signed the previously mentioned treaties.

Topic: Narcoterrorism

In recent years terroristic attacks have become increasing concerns in national and international security. While this is of more pressing concern in larger countries, such as the United States, Angola believes it really is a global debate that must be solved with cooperation between all nations. Although the connection between drug trafficking and terrorism is fairly new, narcoterrorism is a problem already drawing debate and discussion. Narcoterrorism is defined as terroristic acts “carried out by groups that are directly involved in cultivating, manufacturing, transporting, or distributing illicit drugs. The term is generally applied to groups that use the drug trade to fund terrorism.” This term can also be used to refer to “the phenomenon of increasingly close ties between powerful drug lords motivated by simple criminal profit and terrorist groups with political agendas. Narcoterrorism is generally prevalent in chaotic countries, or failed states with governments destroyed by war and internal conflict. Fortunately for many conflict filled countries in Africa, the trend for this problem still lies mainly in South America and the Middle East. However, Africa does have ever increasing problems with drug trafficking through international mail. Countries such as Angola are often transshipment points for cocaine, marijuana, and heroine. Hopefully the problem of narcoterrorism will be eliminated before it grows strong.

The country of Angola does not currently have crucial narcoterrorism problems and with the country’s recommitment to peace in 2002, does not have a strong opposition rebel group fighting the government at the moment. However, the Angolan government does not want this issue to be an added concern in reconstructing and rebuilding the current devastation Angola faces, as it often adds a burden to the government as well as the people. The UN is beginning to make progress in this issue with the meetings of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The recent GA Resolution 56/261 is also a proficient step in addressing this problem. Angola and other members of the OAU/AU are first progressing in solving the major drug-trafficking issues in Africa. In a recent meeting of the OAU/AU, the Declaration of Control of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse in Africa was revised. The heads of state and government extensively reviewed the former Declaration and Plan of Action adopted in 1996.

The OAU/AU welcomes measures that have been taken at all levels to help end this issue and calls on Africa governments, civil societies NGOs and private organizations to continue and increase their helpful efforts. The OAU/AU also reaffirms their commitment to the 1996 Declaration and Plan of Action on the Control of Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking, taking into account emerging associated problems, committing the African countries to fairly, effectively solving these problems. Finally, the OAU/AU calls all developmental partners and all relevant UN agencies, particularly UNDCP to aid African countries in this effort by providing technical and financial support. A revised Plan of Action was implemented as an internal program in the African Union. Angola hopes this plan will be an initial step in solving narcoterrorism. Although Angola does not have a clear resolution or proposal for further steps, Angola is willing to consider plans of other countries expressing similar opinions on the issues of drug trafficking and the need to solve narcoterrorism.

Topic: Landmines

The political and economic reconstruction necessary in so many countries around the world has been affected by the use of landmines in local conflicts, civil wars, and wars of liberation. These encased explosive materials detonate from either the pressure of just a footstep or a passing vehicle. Although designed with soldiers and tanks in mind, today landmines more

often explode from the footsteps of children or the wheels of farm vehicles, maiming innocent victims. As landmines hide undetected underground, they pose a threat to countries in Africa, Asia, South America, and the Middle East recovering from political or civil conflicts. Civilian movement must be restricted, farmland cannot be used, roads and bridges already destroyed by landmines cannot be rebuilt, and refugees cannot return to their homes. The workforce also decreases, as some surviving victims cannot return to their previous jobs. At the same time, the cost of locating and destroying landmines and caring for victims is very high, especially for poor countries. Angola is now rebuilding from a 27 year long civil war and remains the most mine-affected country in sub-Saharan Africa.

Although Angola did sign the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty on December 4, 1997 major steps in addressing and solving this problem weren't really taken until Angola's recommitment to peace in 2002, the same year the treaty was ratified. The Angolan army, the Forças Armadas de Angola, is now participating in the Stockpile Destruction project as required by article 4 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty. This should provide more visibility on any remaining threat involving UNITA and military installations during the civil war. The government of Angola is currently coordinating mine action activities all through out the country through the National Inter-Sectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH), which has the responsibility for all mine related activities undertaken in Angola. Currently two new projects financed by the European Commission and the UNDP support the government's goals. The first being the "Mine Action in Angola 2005 to 2006: Consolidation of the National Mine Action Authority's at National and Provincial Levels" which establishes CNIDAH at both national and provincial levels and seeks to strengthen the national authorities' ability to manage the sector throughout the country. The "Rapid Response Fund" will allow operators to meet the most imminent needs of vulnerable communities and urgent tasks restricting recovery and humanitarian operations. In 2006, CNIDAH aims to work to "promote and improve the general level of results, more efficient use of available capabilities, and enhance the safety and quality of operational activities. CNIDAH visualizes an Angola where the socio-economic impact of landmines and the risk to the community is reduced and regulated by 2010.

If the previously mentioned efforts in Angola prove to be successful, Angola recommends they be put into practice in similar countries struggling with this problem. In recent months, the Angolan government and UNICEF have launched a national campaign to prevent landmine accidents on Angolan roads. This campaign, called "We Stay on the Right Path" will educate drivers and their passengers in the dangers of the common practice of going off road to avoid muddy conditions during the wet season and urging them to avoid doing so. This campaign is Angola's largest effort against landmines and if successful should be implemented in other countries facing the same landmine conflicts as Angola. Angola believes there is a clear need to provide additional technical and financial resources to countries struggling from this issue especially those recovering from long conflicts. Although proficient progress has been made in this pressing issue, Angola believes that the Sixth Meeting of States parties to the relevant convention, being held later in the year, should re-evaluate the critical issues still present in mine-affected countries.