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[Department of State](#)

You Are In: [Speeches](#) > [Iran](#) > Remarks by Ambassador Schulte on the Director General's Report on Iran's Compliance

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Remarks by Ambassador Schulte on the Director General's Report on Iran's Compliance

Director General's Report on Iran's Compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions

Ambassador Gregory L. Schulte

U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna and the International Atomic Energy Agency

May 23, 2007

Today's report demonstrates that, more than four years after its secret nuclear program was uncovered, Iran's leaders still refuse to take simple steps to comply with their international obligations and to gain the world's confidence that their nuclear ambitions are peaceful. Instead, Iran's leaders are continuing down a path that puts them increasingly at odds with the international community.

Iran's leaders refuse to comply with their international obligation to suspend activities related to uranium enrichment. They refuse to provide key information to the IAEA, including on purchases from the A.Q. Khan network, an illicit market in nuclear weapons technology. They refuse to turn over a fifteen page document, obtained from that market, related to the fabrication of nuclear weapons components.

We are concerned that the Agency reports that its level of knowledge about Iran's nuclear activities has deteriorated because of Iran's refusal to cooperate. We are also concerned that Iran is challenging the Agency's right to verify design information at a key facility and refusing to provide advance information on any new nuclear facilities. This does not inspire confidence in the nature of Iran's activities or the intentions of its leadership.

As the Director General notes, unless Iran addresses long outstanding verification issues, and implements the Additional Protocol and required transparency measures, the IAEA will not be able to provide assurances about the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's program. How can the world believe Iran's claims that its pursuits are peaceful, if Iran's leaders increasingly withhold information and cooperation from the world's nuclear watchdog?

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