

UN nuclear chief says no progress on Iran

Yukiya Amano says that talks with Tehran about nuclear programme have been 'going around in circles'.

Last Modified: 03 Jun 2013 09:37



Yukia Amano says Iran's nuclear work is in 'clear contravention' of UN security council regulations [EPA]

The UN nuclear agency chief has said that talks with Iran have been "going around in circles", with no progress on efforts to clarify concerns about its nuclear programme.

Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said that Iran's atomic work was in "clear contravention" of UN security council regulations.

Iran was advancing its activities related to the construction of a heavy water research reactor, and its number of uranium enrichment centrifuges and stockpile of refined uranium were increasing, he said.

"This is not the right way to address issues of such great importance to the international community, including Iran," he told the IAEA's 35-nation governing board.

Referring to the IAEA's attempts since early 2012 to engage with Tehran over suspicions about possible atomic bomb research by the Islamic state, Amano said: "The agency has solid grounds for requesting clarification in relation to possible military dimensions" of Iran's nuclear programme.

9 April 2013 Last updated at 10:47 GMT

Iran unveils uranium activities at Saghand and Ardakan



Iran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only

Iran says it has begun operations at two uranium mines and a uranium ore processing plant, furthering its capacity to produce nuclear material.

Low-grade uranium ore will be extracted at the Saghand mines and turned into purer uranium, known as yellowcake, at nearby Ardakan.

It can then be enriched - a process which the West wants Iran to curtail.

The announcement comes days after talks between Iran and major powers over the nuclear crisis failed to make progress.

Tehran insists its enrichment activities are solely for civilian purposes, while the international community suspects Iran wants to be able to use it for nuclear weapons.

The Saghand uranium mine and Ardakan facility are the largest in the country and will be able to produce 60 tonnes of yellowcake a year, state television said.

The BBC's diplomatic correspondent, Jonathan Marcus, says the exploitation of these mines underscores Tehran's determination to master and operate the full scope of the nuclear fuel cycle from uranium extraction, processing, enrichment and ultimately the manufacture of nuclear fuel.

The announcement, coming in the wake of the failure of the latest diplomatic effort to engage with Iran on its nuclear programme, is evidence yet again that Tehran intends to stick to the path that it has already chosen, he adds.

On-off talks between Iran and the so-called P5+1 group (the US, Russia, China, the UK and France - plus Germany) resumed this month but broke up without agreement.

Iran says it needs enriched uranium for its Bushehr nuclear power plant to generate electricity, and to produce medical isotopes. International powers want it to stop enriching uranium to a level of 20%, which can then be more easily enriched to weapons-grade level.

6 April 2013 Last updated at 20:59 GMT

Iran nuclear: Ashton says positions 'still far apart'



Baroness Ashton said positions were "far apart"

Talks between world powers and Iran on its nuclear programme have ended without agreement, with the EU saying their positions "remain far apart".

Over two days of talks in Almaty, Iran was asked to give up work on its most sensitive nuclear activities in return for an easing of sanctions.

Iran said it was up to the world powers to demonstrate willingness to take confidence-building steps.

World powers suspect Iran of a covert nuclear weapons programme.

Tehran, which insists its intentions are peaceful, is negotiating with the so-called P5+1 group comprising the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the US, Russia, China, the UK and France - plus Germany.

'No breakthrough'

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton confirmed no deal was reached.

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Analysis [Lyse Doucet](#) Chief international correspondent

"A robust and detailed back-and-forth on specific elements" is how a senior US official described 48 hours in Almaty.

"Some good negotiations," were the words used by Iran's Chief Negotiator Saeed Jalili.

By all accounts, there was more talking in the talks than in the past decade of tortuous negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme.

But it's underlined how wide the gaps are, how deep the mistrust is, how far they still have to go to achieve a negotiated solution.

And time is not on anyone's side. Both sides are under pressure to prove talks are not failing. But there was no agreement, not even on a date to meet again, although consultations and telephone calls are in the diaries.

Both sides believe the other is still asking for too much, for too little in return. Both believe the ball is in the other's court. But the onus still lies on Iran to prove its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful, lest calls for military action grow ever louder.

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"It became clear that the positions... remain far apart on the substance," she told reporters on Saturday.

"We have therefore agreed that all sides will go back to [their] capitals to evaluate where we stand in the process," she added.

"I think the first hurdle is take the proposal that we put on the table and get a real response to all of it... The challenge is to get real engagement so that we can move forward with this."

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov confirmed there had been a "lack of results".

"Unfortunately we were unable to achieve a breakthrough and are still on the threshold," he was quoted as saying by Russia's Interfax news agency.

According to AFP news agency, he also said no time or place for the next talks had yet been agreed.

Tehran's chief negotiator, Saeed Jalili, was quoted as saying by Reuters news agency: "We proposed our plan of action and the other party was not ready and they asked for some time to study the idea."

At a previous round of talks in Kazakhstan in February, the P5+1 tried to push Tehran to halt production and stockpiling of uranium enriched to 20%.

The P5+1 also demanded Iran shut down the Fordo underground enrichment facility.

In return, the world powers suggested easing tough economic sanctions imposed on Iran in response to its nuclear programme.

Iran's economy has been squeezed, with oil revenue slashed, the currency nose-diving in value and unemployment growing.

5 April 2013 Last updated at 16:30 GMT

Iran nuclear talks 'yield little progress'



Western negotiators, led by the EU's Catherine Ashton, want Iran to stop enriching uranium

Iran has failed to deliver a "clear and concrete response" to a proposal aimed at ending deadlock over its nuclear programme, a Western diplomat has said.

Tehran said it had offered "specific plans" at the opening of the talks with world powers in Kazakhstan.

But the diplomat there said they were a "reworking" of proposals rejected at last year's talks in Russia.

Iran insists its nuclear programme is purely civilian, but world powers suspect it has a military intent.

The Iranian chief negotiator, Saeed Jalili, strongly defended its programme ahead of the talks, saying the global community must accept Tehran's right to enrich uranium.

The talks have now ended for the day and are expected to resume again on Saturday.

'Practical solution'

Mr Jalili opened the talks in Almaty on Friday morning by presenting "specific plans and proposals for starting a new round of co-operation" between Iran and Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany (P5+1), his deputy Ali Bagheri said.



"We are talking about peaceful nuclear energy," Saeed Jalili said

But a Western diplomat, who did not want to be named, said that the P5+1 was "somewhat puzzled by the Iranians' characterisation of what they presented" at the morning session.

"There has not yet been a clear and concrete response to the... proposal" made by the P5+1 at

their most recent talks, in February, in Almaty, the diplomat said.

"There were some interesting but not fully explained general comments on our ideas. It was mainly a reworking of what they said in Moscow."

Saeed Jalili told an audience at Almaty university on Thursday: "We think our talks... can go forward with one word. That is the acceptance of the rights of Iran, particularly the right to enrichment."

"We are talking about peaceful nuclear energy," he stressed, accusing "a handful of countries" of trying "to deny this right to others".

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told reporters in Madrid on Thursday he hoped for "very meaningful progress" from the negotiations, urging the Iranians to prove their programme was for peaceful purposes.

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Analysis



James Reynolds BBC Iran correspondent

Baroness Catherine Ashton and Saed Jalili kept their distance in the photocall and, it would appear, in the subsequent negotiations as well.

The world powers had hoped that Iran would give a clear response to proposals made by the P5+1 at the previous round of talks. Instead, Iran decided to table its own plan.

But there appears to be little overlap between the two sets of suggestions. The P5+1 want Iran to shut down an enrichment facility and stop uranium enrichment. By contrast, Iran wants the world powers to lift sanctions and recognise what it believes is the Islamic Republic's right to enrich uranium.

The two sides will hold a final day of talks on Saturday.

At the previous round of talks in Kazakhstan in February, the world powers tried to push Tehran to halt production and stockpiling of uranium enriched to 20% - a step away from achieving a nuclear weapons capability.

The P5+1 also demanded Iran shut down the Fordo underground enrichment facility.

In return the world powers suggested easing tough economic sanctions against Iran.

Several rounds of sanctions have squeezed Iran's economy, with oil revenue slashed, the currency nose-diving in value and unemployment growing.

But significant differences reportedly remain on how far both sides are willing to go to reach a mutually accepted compromise.

In March, US President Barack Obama said he had offered Iran a "practical solution" if it truly

sought peaceful nuclear capabilities rather than weapons.

He urged the country to take "immediate and meaningful steps" to reduce tension with the international community.

Meanwhile, Israel has warned that it will stop Iran's programme militarily if other means fail.

14 March 2013 Last updated at 19:41 GMT

Iran nuclear weapon over a year away, says Obama



Iran's Parchin complex has long been suspected as a site of nuclear weapons research

US President Barack Obama has told an Israeli television channel it would take Iran "over a year or so" to develop a nuclear weapon.

In an interview with Channel 2 he said he did not want to "cut it too close" and declined to rule out the possibility of military action.

Iran's nuclear programme is expected to be high on the agenda when Mr Obama visits Israel later this month.

Tehran insists it is refining uranium only for peaceful energy purposes.

But Israel has repeatedly threatened a military strike if Iran appears to be on the verge of obtaining a bomb.

Washington is pushing for more time to allow diplomacy and economic sanctions to run their course.

"We think that it would take over a year or so for Iran to actually develop a nuclear weapon but obviously we don't want to cut it too close," Mr Obama said.

"My message (to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu) will be the same as before: if we can resolve it diplomatically, that's a more lasting solution. But if not, I continue to keep all options on the table."

Asked if an attack on Iran's nuclear sites was a realistic option he said: "When I say that all options are on the table, all options are on the table and the United States obviously has significant capabilities.

"But our goal here is to make sure that Iran does not possess a nuclear weapon that could threaten Israel or could trigger an arms race in the region. That would be extraordinarily dangerous at a time when obviously there are already a lot of things going on."



Mr Obama is known to have had a fractious relationship with Mr Netanyahu.

On 20 March Mr Obama is due to begin his first trip to Israel, the Palestinian territories and Jordan since being elected president in 2008.

He and Mr Netanyahu are also expected to discuss the war in neighbouring Syria and efforts to revive peace talks with the Palestinians.

The UN Security Council has ordered Iran to stop uranium enrichment and imposed four sets of sanctions.

Earlier this month the head of the UN's nuclear watchdog called for access to Iran's Parchin military site "without further delay" and without waiting for negotiations to make progress.

The IAEA has long suspected nuclear weapons research is taking place at the site, just outside Tehran.

It has not had access to the military complex since 2005.

In the same interview with Channel 2, Mr Obama said he had no plans to "immediately" release convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard.

Pollard, 57, was jailed for life in 1987 for leaking secret US documents to Israel. Mr Obama said he was guilty of "a very serious crime".

In another development on Thursday, the Pentagon said a US fighter jet over the Gulf had fired a warning flare to stop an Iranian jet approaching an unmanned US drone.

A statement said the Iranian fighter broke off pursuit after the incident on 12 March. It said the drone had been flying over international waters.

27 February 2013 Last updated at 09:07 GMT

Iran nuclear crisis: Jalili says talks 'positive step'



World powers presented Iran with a proposal which would involve shutting an enrichment plant

Iran says talks with world powers in Kazakhstan to try to resolve its nuclear crisis were a "positive step".

Chief negotiator Saeed Jalili said the US, UK, France, China, Russia and Germany (the P5+1) had been "more realistic" than in previous discussions.

More top-level talks will be held in Almaty again in April.

The multilateral discussions were the first since a round in July 2012 ended without a breakthrough.

International powers suspect Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons - a charge Iran strongly denies.

Iran insists its purposes are purely civilian, asserting it needs enriched uranium to make medical isotopes.

Proposals

At a news conference after the second day of talks concluded, Mr Jalili expressed cautious optimism.

"Certain positions of the P5+1 group were more positive compared to those expressed in the past," he said.



Iran says its nuclear programme is for civilian

purposes only

There has been no official announcement from the P5+1 since the talks ended.

Russia and Iran said technical experts from both sides would meet in March, and the P5+1 group would meet with Iran again on 5 and 6 April.

Since 2010, Iran has been enriching uranium to a level of 20%, an important technological step towards being able to produce more highly enriched weapons-grade material.

Iran has repeatedly rejected Western calls to stop enriching uranium, insisting it is an inalienable right.

During the opening three-hour session, Baroness Catherine Ashton - the lead negotiator for the world powers - presented what has been described as a revised offer to Iran.

The proposal was thought to repeat an earlier demand to stop uranium enrichment and to shut down the Fordo underground enrichment facility.

In return, some of the sanctions which have been imposed on Iran could be eased, reports say.

Several rounds of sanctions have squeezed Iran's economy, with oil revenue slashed, the currency nose-diving in value and unemployment growing.

Iran's Press TV said Iran would also offer "a new comprehensive package of proposals", without giving details.

However there has been little sign of the atmosphere easing.

The talks took place against a background of Israeli warnings that it will stop Iran's programme militarily if other means fail.

This month, Iran said it had found major new uranium deposits and was planning to expand its nuclear power programme.

Iran said the find - which has not been independently confirmed - would treble the size of known uranium deposits.

Only 10 days earlier, Iran announced an upgrade to its Natanz nuclear plant centrifuges - believed to be able to enrich uranium two or three times faster than the old equipment.

A report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) last week said it could not yet "exclude the existence of possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme".

28 January 2013 Last updated at 00:33 GMT

Iran's nuclear ambitions stalk presidential election

By Bozorgmehr Sharafedin BBC Persian



Iran's nuclear crisis has escalated during Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's presidency

In six months' time Iranians will go to the polls to elect a new president.

Although the campaign does not officially start until March, there has already been much speculation about who will be competing in the race to succeed Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

After a year dominated by infighting between supporters and opponents of Mr Ahmadinejad, the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has warned politicians not to engage in early electioneering.

Despite this, names are beginning to emerge, and parties and factions have quietly started lobbying for their preferred candidate.

Intriguingly, many of the potential contenders so far have one thing in common - they have been involved in the international negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme.

Hassan Rohani, who was the country's chief nuclear negotiator from 2003 to 2005, is the latest politician to tacitly acknowledge that he is intending to stand.

He hit the headlines last year when he published an outspoken memoir about his time as nuclear negotiator, which detailed clashes with President Ahmadinejad and eventually forced Mr Rohani to resign.

Claiming to appeal to both conservative and reform-minded voters, Mr Rohani told reporters in early January that it was time for a "new tone" in Iranian nuclear policy and that President Ahmadinejad had been too "confrontational".

Speculation

Ali Larijani, the current speaker of parliament, is another possible candidate with a nuclear past.

In 2005, he succeeded Mr Rohani as Iran's nuclear negotiator, but his moderate and pragmatic stand also put him at odds with the president and he resigned after two years.



Saeed Jalili, Iran's current nuclear envoy, is in the frame to contest the presidency. Now the conservative faction in the Iranian parliament - which controls almost two-thirds of the seats - has given him its backing.

Another name in the hat is Saeed Jalili, Iran's current chief nuclear envoy.

A tough negotiator who lost a leg during the Iran-Iraq war, Mr Jalili is keeping silent about his intentions.

But there has already been a high-profile and well-organised campaign running in the Iranian blogosphere to support his candidacy, and some members of the influential conservative Islamic Stability Front have gone public to back him.

And lastly there is Ali Akbar Salehi, the current foreign minister and former head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

Mr Salehi has so far declined to confirm whether he will be standing for the presidency, but his elusive answers when questioned at news conferences have fuelled speculation that his name will also be in the running.

Inner circle

So why is there such a buzz around these "nuclear candidates"?

Clearly one issue is their relationship with the man who has the final say on Iran's nuclear policy, Ayatollah Khamenei.

Observers say that being a member of the nuclear policy-makers' club is seen as a badge of honour in Iranian politics because the supreme leader only lets the most trusted people into this inner circle.

For all of the names currently in the running, involvement in the nuclear talks has resulted in a high-speed train ride to the very top of Iranian politics.



International sanctions have hurt the Iranian

economy

For Mr Salehi, a stint as Iran's representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was a fast-track to being appointed foreign minister in 2011.

Mr Larijani went from head of the state broadcaster, Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran (VVIRI), to speaker of parliament after his two years as nuclear negotiator.

But while they may have Ayatollah Khamenei to thank for their current high-profile roles, it is not clear how popular any of these men really are with ordinary voters.

Mr Larijani, who has the most solid profile among them all, tried his luck in the presidential election in 2005, but only won 4% of the vote.

Iran watchers say that the emergence of the "nuclear candidates" also indicates just how crucial the nuclear issue has now become at all levels of Iranian political life.

For the conservative politicians who came to power after the last presidential election in 2009, the ongoing confrontation with the West over Iran's nuclear ambitions is becoming so serious they fear it could threaten the very existence of the Islamic Republic.

For the Revolutionary Guards and the business world, while sanctions may have offered the chance to monopolise the economy in the short term, there is a growing awareness that as the economy shrinks, so will their share of the profits.

Earlier this month, one MP confirmed what many had suspected when he announced that Iran's oil sales had fallen 40% and its income has dropped 45% over the last nine months.

Growing impatience

But most important of all is the stance of the supreme leader.

US President Barack Obama has warned that the window of diplomacy is "shrinking" and Ayatollah Khamenei knows that if he does not negotiate him, there is no guarantee the next interlocutor will be someone with the same degree of patience and persistence.

Ayatollah Khamenei has made no secret of his growing impatience with the tensions between President Ahmadinejad and other officials over the nuclear issue.

It is clear he would welcome a new president who could try to build consensus on the issue and get everyone working in the same direction.

Given the complexities of Iranian politics, observers caution that even if one of the "nuclear candidates" is elected president, there are unlikely to be big changes in the short term.

But it would send an important message to people inside Iran and in the West that solving the nuclear issue is now a top priority for the supreme leader and that Iran is keen to solve the deadlock while there is still time.

23 February 2013 Last updated at 15:47 GMT

Iran announces uranium finds and power

plant expansion



Under an array of sanctions, Iran has had to find independent means to build and fuel its nuclear power programme

Iran nuclear crisis

- [Issue stalks poll](#)
- [Q&A: Nuclear issue](#)
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Iran says it has found major new uranium deposits and is planning to expand its nuclear power programme.

It said 16 sites had been identified as suitable for the construction of new power plants over the next 15 years.

Iran said the find - which has not been independently confirmed - would treble the size of known uranium deposits.

Under UN sanctions, Iran is banned from importing nuclear material. It is due to hold talks with Western powers on Tuesday about its nuclear programme.

The US and its allies are widely believed to be planning to offer Iran some relief from sanctions at the talks in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

France confirmed a "substantial" new offer would be made, French news agency AFP quoted the foreign ministry as saying.

Three rounds of meetings in Moscow ended last June in stalemate.

Iran denies charges that it is secretly developing atomic weapons and insists that as a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) it is entitled to develop a nuclear power programme.

But tightening sanctions have squeezed Iran's economy, with oil revenue slashed, a currency that has nosedived in value, and growing unemployment.

'Round-the-clock' work

As a result of years of study, 16 new sites had been identified as suitable for the construction of nuclear power plants, said the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI) in reports carried by Iranian news agencies.

The sites - on Iran's north and south coasts, Khuzestan province and north-western Iran - were chosen in part for their resistance to earthquakes and military strikes, it said.

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“Start Quote

If [Western powers] want to enter constructive talks, then they should enter with a new strategy and proposals”

Saeed Jalili Iran's top nuclear negotiator

In separate reports, the AEOI praised experts' "round-the-clock efforts" for having resulted in the discovery of uranium deposits, "multiplying the current amount of its resources".

According to media reports, discoveries over the past 18 months have trebled Iran's reserves of raw uranium, which now stand at 4,400 tonnes.

"This made it possible for the Islamic Republic of Iran to move to a more advanced level in the field of nuclear industry among those countries that possess nuclear technology," Iranian news agency Irna quoted the AEOI as saying.

There is no independent verification of the find but Western experts had reportedly previously estimated that Iran might be coming close to using up its supplies of raw uranium.

'Nuclear rights'

The developments come as Iran gears up for another round of talks with the so-called P5+1 grouping of nations. These comprise the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the US, UK, France, China, and Russia - plus Germany.

The group has called on Iran to scale back its uranium enrichment - needed both for power plant fuel and, in higher purities, for the creation of a nuclear weapon.

But Iran had "fulfilled its NPT obligations" and would "defend its rights including its nuclear rights", said its top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, in remarks quoted by semi-official Iranian news agency Isna.

"If the 5+1 want to enter constructive talks, then they should enter with a new strategy and proposals. We hope the 5+1... enter on a path that can win the Iranian people's trust," he said.

Only 10 days ago, Iran announced an upgrade to Iranian enrichment machines or centrifuges - believed to be able to enrich two or three times faster than the old equipment.

Western powers have hinted that they will make Iran an offer that includes significant new elements which media reports have speculated could include an easing of sanctions on Iranian

trade in precious metals.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), "overall, credible" evidence exists that until 2003, and possibly since then, Iran conducted nuclear weapons research.

The IAEA has also expressed concern about extensive changes at Iran's Parchin military base, where the agency suspects that explosives tests relevant to nuclear weapons have taken place in the past - a charge Iran denies.

Iran has so far resisted pressure to allow the IAEA access to Parchin.

21 February 2013 Last updated at 19:40 GMT

Iran installing new Natanz centrifuges, says IAEA



The US state department spokeswoman said reports of advanced centrifuge installation were not a surprise

Iran has begun installing advanced centrifuge machines for enriching uranium at its nuclear plant at Natanz, says the UN's nuclear watchdog.

The US said if confirmed it would be "another provocative step".

International talks over Iran's nuclear programme are due to resume in Kazakhstan next week.

Western powers fear Tehran is seeking weapons technology, but Tehran says it is refining uranium only for peaceful energy purposes.

The Natanz facility, in central Iran, is at the heart of the country's dispute with the UN's watchdog.

Analysis



Bethany Bell BBC News, Vienna

The IAEA says Iran has started to install about 180 advanced centrifuges at its Natanz nuclear plant - potentially a major upgrade in Iran's nuclear programme.

There is concern in the West that these new machines could significantly speed up Iran's production of material that could be used in a nuclear bomb.

Centrifuges are used to enrich uranium. Low-enriched uranium is used for civilian purposes. But higher-grade enriched uranium can be used as the material for an atomic bomb.

Iran says its nuclear work is purely peaceful, and that its enriched uranium will be used for reactor fuel and for medical and scientific purposes.

But this announcement by the IAEA could hurt the chances for the next round of talks between Iran and six world powers in Kazakhstan next week.

The US, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany, want Iran to cut back on enrichment - not expand it.

'Further isolation'

The IAEA released a report each quarter detailing its progress at monitoring Iran's nuclear development.

The BBC obtained a copy of the latest report, which has not yet been officially released.

It concludes: "The director general is unable to report any progress on the clarification of outstanding issues including those relating to possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme."

It adds that despite intensified dialogue with Iran, no progress has been made on how to clear up the questions about Iran's nuclear work.

The IAEA has made similar complaints in previous quarterly reports, and Iran is under an array of sanctions as a result of its lack of co-operation.

Iran had informed the IAEA in a letter on 23 January that it planned to introduce a new model of centrifuge called the IR2m, which can enrich two or three times faster than current equipment.

Gas centrifuges are used to increase the proportion of fissile uranium-235 atoms within

uranium.

For uranium to work in a nuclear reactor it must be enriched to contain 2-3% uranium-235 while weapons-grade uranium must contain 90% or more uranium-235.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the new centrifuges could cut by a third the time Iran, one of Israel's fiercest opponents in the Middle East, needed to create a nuclear bomb.

US state department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the report development at Natanz was "not surprising".



The Natanz facility is at the heart of Iran's latest dispute with Western nations

"The installation of new advanced centrifuges would be a further escalation, and a continuing violation of Iran's obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and IAEA board resolutions," she said.

But she added that Iran had the opportunity to allay the international community's concerns during talks in Kazakhstan next week.

Starting on 26 February, the talks will involve Iranian officials, the five permanent members the UN Security Council, and Germany.