



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by H.E Reza Najafi,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
before the Special Session of the Board of Governors of the IAEA**

(Vienna, 2 March 2026)

بسم رب الشهداء و الصديقين

The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, some high ranking officials as well as many civilians, including more than 165 girl students only in one elementary school, were martyred in an act of aggression by the United States and the Israeli regimes. Mourning the loss of the Supreme Leader and their loved ones, the great nation of Iran stand united and firm in defending their beloved country.

Distinguished Delegates

For the second time in less than nine months, the Islamic Republic of Iran, including its peaceful safeguarded nuclear facilities are subjected to ongoing acts of aggression.

Consistent with a longstanding pattern, the strategy employed once again relies on what may be described as '*Weapons of Mass Deception*' — namely misrepresentation, disinformation, and unfounded allegations.

In statements justifying this crime of aggression, the U.S. President repeatedly invoked claims of Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons. These assertions are entirely false. Such deliberate fabrications constitute a serious breach of truth and trust, reflecting a broader pattern of deception in American foreign policy.

Historical precedents, both within and beyond our region, demonstrate the use of similar distortions to seemingly justify aggressions.

The American and the Israeli regimes, under the false narrative of preventing Iran of developing nuclear weapons, martyred our Supreme Leader who was the only Muslim scholar in the contemporary world to have issued a *fatwa* categorically prohibiting weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

The joint acts of aggression and crime against peace carried out by the American and the Israeli regimes against Iran's peaceful and safeguarded nuclear facilities — first in June 2025 and again in February and March 2026 — under the pretext of preventing Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons, strike directly at the very core norms the Agency is mandated to uphold.

The IAEA must therefore unequivocally condemn these acts of aggression as a violation of its Statute, the resolutions and decisions of the General Conference and Board of Governors, according to which “*any armed attack on and threat against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes constitutes a violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law and the Statute of the Agency*”.

Let us be clear: the current escalation is, in part, a consequence of inaction by the UN Security Council and the IAEA, in June 2025, when Iran's peaceful and safeguarded nuclear facilities were subjected to illegal attacks.

Failure to respond effectively on this occasion risks further emboldening aggressors to perpetrate more brutal violations with greater severity. This Board has a responsibility to act decisively in fulfillment of its Statutory mandates. Another inaction will even further compromise the Agency's authority and credibility. The imperative to act responsibly and without delay is both clear and compelling.

Mr. Chair

Following the joint acts of aggression carried out by the American and the Israeli regimes in June 2025, the Islamic Republic of Iran extended a constructive diplomatic overture by maintaining interactions with the IAEA.

Despite this demonstration of goodwill and a sincere effort to pursue dialogue, these efforts did not yield meaningful or positive outcomes, and the aggressors launched their second round of aggression, most recently to the territory of Iran, including safeguarded nuclear facility at Natanz.

Today, the very foundational pillars of the NPT have been gravely violated and systematically undermined —by one of its own Depositary States together with a regime which possesses nuclear weapons and has not joined any of international instruments prohibiting Weapons of Mass Destruction.

As a result, the foundational pillars of international non-proliferation norms, including the NPT has been flagrantly violated, and its ineffectiveness and credibility has seriously been compromised. Equally, the Agency has suffered a profound and irreparable loss of credibility and authority.

Distinguished Delegates

Acting in full conformity with its inherent right to self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, Iran will continue to strongly and steadfastly defend and protect its territory, sovereignty, integrity, citizens and interests until the aggression ceases fully and unequivocally.

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains committed to its long-standing policy of *good neighbourliness*. However, all bases, facilities, and assets of the hostile forces in the region are legitimate military objectives within the framework of lawful exercise of self-defense.

Iran's proud and enduring legacy testifies that those who have launched invasions against this land, after enduring heavy losses and confronting the consequences of their grave miscalculations, have ultimately been compelled to retreat and abandon their aggression.

With the martyrdom of our Supreme Leader, his final command and final message now echoes across the nation — an unyielding call to resistance until the last breath.

As our Imam declared, أَلْقَتُلُ لَنَا عَادَةٌ وَكِرَامَتُنَا الشَّهَادَةُ — “*For us, martyrdom is a tradition, and our honor lies in sacrifice.*” This enduring principle reflects a legacy in which dignity is preserved not through submission, but through unwavering steadfastness and sacrifice, in the face of oppression, aggression and injustice.

I thank you Mr. Chair