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## **HISTORIC IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL SEALS KERRY-ZARIF CLAIM TO 2016 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE**

The comprehensive agreement between Iran and six world powers is the most significant multilateral nuclear agreement in two decades – the last such agreement was the 1996 nuclear test ban treaty – said Tariq Rauf, former Head of Verification and Security Policy at the IAEA currently Director of the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Programme at SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute). The nuclear deal seals the award of the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize to US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iran’s Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, said Rauf. *[It should be noted that SIPRI itself does not nominate anyone for any Nobel Prize and this comment is not a nomination by SIPRI – for further information on the Nobel Peace Prize, please refer to <http://www.nobelprize.org/nomination/peace/>.]*

The Iran nuclear agreement paves the way for assuring the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programme and sanctions relief for the Iranian people, said Rauf.

The agreement should formally enter into force by the end of 2015 or early 2016, after US Congressional and Iranian Majlis review.

In the meantime, the IAEA can carry out verification and assessment on the ‘possible military dimensions’ (PMD) to Iran’s nuclear activities and report by the end of this year.

Iran will implement the IAEA additional protocol and allow ‘managed access’ to certain military locations, such as Parchin, to allay concerns about possible nuclear weaponization activities, and limit its uranium enrichment capacity.

A side-beneficiary of the Iran nuclear deal is the IAEA Director General, Yukiya Amano, who is seeking early endorsement of a third term in office 2017-2021, according to diplomatic sources in Vienna.

The Iran nuclear deal also will contribute to setting up a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East.

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