

**Statement by Robert Cooper following the E3+3 meeting on Iran in Brussels
20 November 2009**

The Ministers of the UK, China, France, Germany, Russia, the US and the EU High Representative met in New York on 23 September. They agreed that "the meeting on 1 October will provide an opportunity to seek a comprehensive long term and appropriate solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation. We expect a serious response from Iran and will decide in the context of our dual track approach, as a result of the meeting, on our next steps."

Today, the Political Directors of these countries met in Brussels to take stock of developments since the 1 October meeting in Geneva.

We are disappointed by the lack of follow-up to the three understandings reached at the Geneva meeting between HR Solana and Dr Jalili.

- Although the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has visited the Qom enrichment facility, we noted the IAEA Director General's assessment that Iran should have declared to the Agency the construction of this facility much earlier and has therefore not complied with its safeguards obligations. In addition, the construction of a new enrichment facility is in defiance of several UN Security Council Resolutions. The IAEA Board will have to address this issue next week;

- Iran has not engaged in an intensified dialogue and in particular has not agreed to have a new meeting before the end of October to discuss nuclear issues;

- Iran has not responded positively to the IAEA's proposed agreement for the provision of nuclear fuel for its Tehran Research Reactor.

We urge Iran to reconsider the opportunity offered by this agreement to meet the humanitarian needs of its people and to engage seriously with us in dialogue and negotiations. This remains our consistent objective.

We have agreed to remain in contact and expect a further meeting soon to complete our assessment of the situation and to decide on our next steps.
