

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
June 4 - 9, 2010

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1. [U.N. Targets Iranian Nuclear and Conventional Weapons Programs](#) (06-09-2010)

By Stephen Kaufman

Washington — By passing U.N. Security Council Resolution 1929, the international community is demonstrating its commitment to preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon as well as its desire to maintain the global nonproliferation regime and uphold international law, President Obama says.

Speaking at the White House June 9 shortly after the measure was adopted, Obama reaffirmed Iran's right to access peaceful nuclear energy under the guidelines of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but said that "with those rights come responsibilities," and that its nuclear activities and failure to comply with previous U.N. resolutions and requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have meant that Iran is the only NPT signatory that "cannot convince the IAEA that its nuclear program is intended for peaceful purposes."

[The resolution](#) passed 12-2, with Turkey and Brazil voting against it and Lebanon abstaining. The measure, the fourth U.N. action taken against Iran's nuclear activities since 2006, imposes "the most comprehensive sanctions that the Iranian government has ever faced," Obama said, targeting its nuclear activities, ballistic missile program, and "for the first time, its conventional military," he said.

According to a June 9 White House fact sheet on the resolution, U.N. member states are prohibited from selling or transporting heavy weaponry to Iran, including battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, large caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems. Among other measures in the resolution, the assets of more than 41 additional

Iranian companies have been frozen, including 15 that are controlled by the country's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

"These sanctions show the united view of the international community that a nuclear arms race in the Middle East is in nobody's interest, and that nations must be held accountable for challenging the global nonproliferation regime," Obama said. "The Iranian government must understand that true security will not come through the pursuit of nuclear weapons. True security will come through adherence to international law and the demonstration of its peaceful intent."

The president said that since the beginning of his administration, the United States has clearly stated its willingness to discuss diplomatic solutions and to engage with Iran "on the basis of mutual interest and mutual respect" to address international concerns over the country's nuclear activities. Along with the United Kingdom, Russia, China and Germany, "[w]e offered the opportunity of a better relationship between Iran and the international community — one that reduced Iran's political isolation, and increased its economic integration with the rest of the world" if Iran agreed to live up to its international obligations.

"This day was not inevitable," Obama said.

He added that Iran still can pursue a "different and better path" with the United States and others. "I would like nothing more than to reach the day when the Iranian government fulfills its international obligations — a day when these sanctions are lifted, previous sanctions are lifted, and the Iranian people can finally fulfill the greatness of the Iranian nation," the president said.

Saying the U.N. sanctions are not directed at the people of Iran, Obama also marked the one-year anniversary of the country's June 12, 2009, disputed presidential election.

That vote was "an event that should have been remembered for how the Iranian people participated with remarkable enthusiasm, but will instead be remembered for how the Iranian government brutally suppressed dissent and murdered the innocent, including a young woman left to die in the street," he said.

By threatening the nuclear nonproliferation regime, the human rights of its citizens, and its neighbors through its support of terrorism, "the Iranian government continues to demonstrate that its own unjust actions are a threat to justice everywhere," he said.

But Iran "can make a different choice and pursue a course that will reaffirm the NPT as the basis of global non-proliferation and disarmament," which Obama said "will advance Iran's own security and prosperity, and the peace of the wider world."

In her June 9 remarks explaining the U.S. vote, U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice said the new sanctions are "as tough as they are smart and precise," targeting Iran's nuclear, ballistic missile and conventional weapons assets, as well as complicit groups and individuals, rather than the Iranian people.

"The resolution we passed today offers Iran a clear path toward the immediate suspension of these sanctions. The best way is also the easiest one: Iran must fulfill its international obligations, suspend its enrichment-related reprocessing, and heavy-water-related activities, and cooperate fully with the IAEA," Rice said.

The ambassador said Turkey and Brazil's hard work toward an agreement on supplying Iran's Tehran Research Reactor with enriched uranium "reflect their leaders' good intentions."

"My government will continue to discuss the Iranian-revised proposal and our concerns about it, as appropriate. But the Tehran Research Reactor proposal — then and now — does not respond to the fundamental, well-founded, and unanswered concerns about Iran's nuclear program. This resolution does," Rice said.

2. New U.N. Security Council Sanctions on Iran (06-09-2010)

Fact sheet highlights new set of imposed sanctions against Iran

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

June 9, 2010

Fact Sheet on the new UN Security Council Sanctions on Iran

Earlier today, in response to Iran's continued refusal to comply with its international obligations regarding its nuclear program, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1929, imposing a strong, broad-based new set of sanctions on Iran.

Resolution 1929 increases the cost to Iran's leadership of their continued defiance of the international community, and aims to persuade Iran that it is in its interest to peacefully resolve concerns about its nuclear program. The Resolution builds on three previous rounds of UN sanctions on Iran by strengthening and expanding existing measures and breaking ground in several new areas. It is a clear and strong response to Iran's refusal to address international concerns over its nuclear program.

This resolution complements our diplomatic efforts to engage Iran. We will continue to work with our international partners to forge a peaceful solution. The United States remains open to dialogue, but Iran must live up to its obligations and clearly demonstrate to the international community the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities.

These sanctions have been carefully designed to target those individuals and entities that are most responsible for Iran's nuclear program. They are not intended to hurt the people of Iran.

What does the resolution do?

The resolution restates the Security Council's longstanding demand that Iran's suspend its enrichment program and other proscribed nuclear activities. It also highlights and clarifies Iran's existing obligations to accept and facilitate the implementation of rigorous international safeguards on its nuclear program.

The resolution imposes a series of new sanctions that will increase the cost to Iran's leaders of their current irresponsible policies. These measures include:

- 1) **Ban on Iranian certain nuclear and missile investment abroad.** Iran is prohibited from investing in sensitive nuclear activities abroad, like uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities, where it could acquire nuclear technology and know-how, as well as activities involving ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons. The ban also applies to investment in uranium mining.
- 2) **Conventional arms ban.** States are prohibited from selling or in any way transferring to Iran eight broad categories of heavy weapons (battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, large caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems). States are similarly prohibited from providing technical or financial assistance for such systems, or spare parts. States are also to exercise vigilance and restraint in supplying any other arms or related materiel to Iran.
- 3) **Ban on ballistic missile activities.** Iran is prohibited from undertaking any activity related to ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons and States are required to take all necessary measure to prevent the transfer of related technology or technical assistance.
- 4) **Additional items banned for transfer.** The resolution updates and adds to the list of technical items related to nuclear and missile proliferation that are banned for transfer to and from Iran.

- 5) **New cargo inspection framework.** Iran is subject to a new regime for inspection of suspicious cargo to detect and stop Iran's smuggling. States should inspect any vessel on their territory suspected of carrying prohibited cargo, including banned conventional arms or sensitive nuclear or missile items. States are also expected to cooperate in such inspections on the high seas.
- 6) **New procedures to deal with contraband items.** Once prohibited items are found, States are now obligated to seize and dispose of the items.
- 7) **Ban on bunkering services.** States are required not to provide critical support services (e.g., fuel, water) to ships suspected of carrying prohibited cargo.
- 8) **Measures to restrict the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) and Iran Air's cargo division.** States must require their nationals to exercise vigilance over IRISL, a known sanctions violator. Three IRISL-related companies will have their assets frozen. States are requested to report any information on activities by IRISL and Iran's Air's cargo division to evade sanctions, including by renaming vessels.
- 9) **New tools to block proliferation finance.** States are called upon to prevent any financial service -- including insurance or reinsurance -- and freeze any asset that could contribute to Iran's proliferation. This broad language will help states take action when there are suspected financial links to Iran's banned nuclear activities.
- 10) **Vigilance over all Iran's companies.** States are required to ensure their nationals exercise vigilance when doing business with any Iranian firm, including IRGC and IRISL, to make sure such business does not contribute to Iran's proliferation.
- 11) **New banking measures.** States are called upon to prohibit on their territories new banking relationships with Iran, including the opening of any new branches of Iranian banks, joint ventures and correspondent banking relationships, if there is a suspected link to proliferation. States also should prohibit their own financial institutions from opening branches in Iran if there is a suspected link to proliferation.
- 12) **New measures to limit the role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).** The resolution highlights the IRGC's role in proliferation and requires states to mandate that businesses exercise vigilance over all transactions involving the IRGC. Fifteen IRGC-related companies linked to proliferation will have their assets frozen.
- 13) **Targeted sanctions on specific individuals and entities.** Forty Iranian companies and one individual will be subject to an asset freeze. The individual -- the head of a critical nuclear research program -- will also be subject to a travel ban. Thirty-five additional individuals previously subject to "travel vigilance" will now be subject to a travel ban.
- 14) **Appointment of a UN sanctions monitoring panel.** A UN "Panel of Experts" will be established to monitor states' implementation of the sanctions, report on sanctions violations and recommend ways to continually improve enforcement.

In addition to imposing these sanctions, the resolution highlights the potential linkage between Iran's energy sector revenues and procurement and its nuclear activities and proliferation. It also stresses the need to exercise vigilance over all Iranian banks -- specifically including the Central Bank of Iran -- to prevent proliferation-related transactions.

The resolution reaffirms the international community's willingness to resolve international concerns over Iran's nuclear program through negotiations, while laying out the steps that Iran must take to restore international confidence in its nuclear program, thereby allowing for the suspension or termination of these sanctions.

See also:

[U.N. Security Council Resolution 1929 on Sanctions Against Iran](#)
[Obama on UN Security Council Resolution on Iran Sanctions](#)

3. Obama Announces New Initiatives for West Bank, Gaza (06-09-2010)

Washington — President Obama, meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, announced an additional \$394.5 million for public projects and programs in the West Bank and Gaza.

The additional assistance will increase access for Palestinians to clean drinking water, create jobs, build schools, expand the availability of affordable housing and also address critical health and infrastructure needs, the White House said [in a statement June 9](#) after the presidents' Oval Office meeting.

While discussing measures to improve conditions for Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, Obama and Abbas primarily focused their talks on moving indirect Israeli-Palestinian talks, known as "proximity talks," into direct peace negotiations. U.S. special envoy George Mitchell has been [conducting indirect talks](#) since March, when direct talks stalled after an announcement on housing construction in East Jerusalem.

Obama is expected to raise the issue of direct talks when his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is rescheduled in the coming weeks. Netanyahu asked Obama to postpone their June 1 meeting so he could attend to events surrounding a May 31 incident where activists aboard an aid convoy attempted to break the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza and some activists were killed.

"Obviously there is a lot of work that remains to be done so that we can create a two-state solution in the Middle East in which we have an Israel that is secure and fully accepted by its neighbors, and a Palestinian people that have their own state, self-determination, and the ability to chart their own destiny," [Obama said](#) in remarks with Abbas following their meeting.

Abbas told reporters that "we are not saying that we have conditions" with regard to transitioning from indirect talks to the direct talks.

"What has happened is that we agreed that should progress be achieved, then we would move on to direct talks. We are working in order to make progress," Abbas said.

WEST BANK AND GAZA ASSISTANCE

Obama said the \$394.5 million in assistance resulted from guidance by Abbas and Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. The president has described the situation in Gaza as unsustainable, and that it demands a significant change in strategy. The Gaza Strip is under the political control of Hamas.

"While we work with our partners in the Palestinian Authority, Israel, Egypt and the international community to put such a strategy in place, these projects represent a down payment on the United States' commitment to Palestinians in Gaza," the White House said.

The projects include:

- A \$240 million investment by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation in the AMAL mortgage finance program in the West Bank.
- \$75 million in funding through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support the Palestinian Authority's efforts to improve infrastructure throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

- \$10 million in USAID-funded projects to enhance the Palestinian private sector's competitiveness.
 - \$40 million to support the emergency appeal for Gaza and the West Bank by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).
 - \$14.5 million in USAID projects for school rehabilitation, small-scale farming, hospital repairs and community infrastructure in Gaza.
 - \$10 million for the construction of five new UNRWA schools in Gaza.
 - \$5 million to start nine USAID-funded projects to repair water distribution and wastewater collection systems in Gaza.
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4. Shangri-La Conference Highlights Asia-Pacific Security Concerns (06-07-2010)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.

Washington — Pursuing common interests in the Asia-Pacific region has increased common security even as the region contends with new and evolving challenges, says U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore June 5, Gates said the region faces challenges from rising powers and failing states, the proliferation of ballistic missiles, extremist violence and cyberthreats against the trade and commerce on which Asia's economic stability depends.

“Confronting these threats is not the task of any one nation acting alone. My government's overriding obligation to allies, partners and the region is to reaffirm America's security commitments in this region,” Gates said.

The region's unprecedented economic growth and political development since the end of World War II was not a foregone conclusion. Rather, Gates said, it was enabled by clear choices and commitments to peace and stability. The region, he said, made commitments to open commerce; to a just international order and the rule of law; to open access to the sea, air, space and cyberspace; and to resolve conflict without force.

The United States, after considerable assessment by the Obama administration of the costs and risks in its national security strategy, is increasing its deterrent capabilities in a number of ways in the Asia-Pacific region. The first is developing missile defenses that are flexible and deployable to counter a growing ballistic missile threat, Gates said. The severest threat has come from efforts by North Korea to develop nuclear weapons and the long-range missiles to deliver them.

Gates said the United States is renewing its commitment to “a strong and effective deterrence” for the U.S. homeland and the defense of allies and partners across the region. While President Obama has pledged to work toward a [world free of nuclear weapons](#), the United States will maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear arsenal as long as these weapons exist.

Gates said that, as the United States has demonstrated for more than 60 years, the strength of the U.S. commitment and deterrent power in the Asia-Pacific region is expressed by the continued presence of substantial U.S. forces in the region.

The U.S. defense posture in Asia is shifting to one that is more geographically distributed, operationally resilient and politically sustainable, Gates said. This comes, he acknowledged, with a major build-up on Guam and with the agreement recently reached on basing with Japan. In particular Gates was referring to an agreement to relocate [a Marine air station near Futenma](#) to a less-populous area on Okinawa.

“It is important to note that we should not measure U.S. presence, and the associated impact and influence, solely in terms of conventional military bases,” Gates told delegates to the ninth annual

Asian security conference. “Rather, we must think more about U.S. presence in the broader sense of what we achieve in the region — the connections made, the results accomplished.”

Gates elaborated on the concept of U.S. presence to include everything from visiting military medical teams and civil engineering personnel to partner militaries training together to enhance capabilities for contributing to international security efforts.

“These kinds of activities reflect a priority of the overall United States security strategy: to prevent and deter conflict by better deploying and integrating all elements of our national power and international cooperation,” Gates said. Deterring conflict includes sustained diplomatic, economic and cultural ties to maintain stability and improve relationships, he said.

U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

Gates said that last year President Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao made a commitment to “sustained and reliable military-to-military relations” between the two nations. But the relationship has been repeatedly interrupted by “the vagaries of political weather.”

“Regrettably, we have not been able to make progress on this relationship in recent months,” Gates said. The Pentagon wants improved military-to-military relations with Chinese military officials at all levels to reduce miscommunication, misunderstanding and miscalculation, he added.

Gates said that as regional partners develop new capabilities, they have a responsibility to take a greater role in providing regional and global security. The nations of Asia have been making significant contributions in the Gulf of Aden against high-seas piracy, and in securing peace for Iraq and for Afghanistan, he said.

But North Korea has provided another reality, one that continues to undermine the peace and stability of East Asia, Gates said. The March 26 unprovoked [attack on the South Korean ship Cheonan](#), in which 46 sailors were killed, is not an isolated event, he added.

“This sinking is far more than a single, isolated incident. It is, rather, part of a larger pattern of provocative and reckless behavior,” Gates said.

The annual Shangri-La Dialogue is a regional security conference sponsored by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, and is held regularly at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore. The conference is attended by defense and military leaders from across Asia and the Pacific.

5. [One Year After Obama’s “A New Beginning” Speech in Cairo, Egypt \(06-07-2010\)](#)

Fact sheet outlines Obama’s vision, principles that guide U.S. policy

The White House
June 8, 2010

On June 4, 2009 in Cairo, Egypt, President Obama proposed a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world, based upon mutual interest and mutual respect. Specifically, the President said that the U.S. would seek a more comprehensive engagement with Muslim-majority countries, countries with significant Muslim populations, and their people by expanding partnerships in areas like education, economic development, science and technology, and health, among others, while continuing to work together to address issues of common concern.

The President’s speech articulated an overarching vision and set of principles that guide U.S. Government policies. Importantly, the Administration has not treated the Cairo speech as a special

initiative. While the President identified specific projects or commitments in the speech, these were examples of the type of engagement we seek. Over the last year, we have delivered many of the specific commitments the President mentioned, but we have done far more. Embassies around the world and departments and agencies across the Government are engaged every day in ways that reflect the vision the President put forth in Cairo.

One year since the President's speech, the Administration remains committed to confronting common challenges and seizing shared opportunities. Below are examples of the Administration's efforts in three key areas discussed in the President's Cairo speech – complete fact sheet can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/foreign-policy/presidents-speech-cairo-a-new-beginning>.

RESPONSIBLE DRAWDOWN OF FORCES IN IRAQ

In June 2009, U.S. forces re-positioned outside Iraq's cities, at which point Iraqi Security Forces successfully took the lead in defending Iraq from internal threats. The number of civilian deaths has dropped to the lowest level recorded since 2003, and Iraqi Security Forces have dealt strong blows against terrorists, including the recent death of the top two leaders of al-Qa'ida in Iraq and the arrest of the leader of Ansar al-Sunna. Iraqi Security Forces also successfully provided security for Iraq's Parliamentary election in March 2010. In February 2010, we drew down to under 100,000 troops for the first time since 2003. Given the significantly improved performance and capability of the Iraqi Security Forces and the sustained drop in Iraqi civilian casualties, we are on track to meet the President's plan to end the combat mission by August 31, 2010, and to drawdown to 50,000 troops. The troop drawdown does not mean disengagement. Rather, the nature of our engagement is changing from one dominated by military and security-related issues to a strategic partnership based on our shared interests.

We look forward to working with the new Iraqi government as we continue to implement the Strategic Framework Agreement (SFA). Under the terms of the SFA, we are strengthening our long term partnership with the Iraqi government and people that features cooperation in a range of sectors, including education, energy, trade, health, culture, information technology, refugees and internally displaced persons, human rights, and rule of law. For example, Iraq has the largest Fulbright Foreign Student program in the Middle East, which will allow 70 Iraqi students the opportunity to study, research and teach in the United States. A Trade Mission from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently visited Iraq, and experts from USDA are helping Iraq improve its agricultural output. As part of our efforts to support Iraq's economic development, the Department of Commerce helped host the U.S. - Iraq Business and Investment Conference last fall in Washington. We are working with the Iraqis to create a market conducive to trade, investment and private-sector growth, and encouraging Iraq's reintegration with the international financial community, The Department of Commerce will conduct a Trade Mission to Iraq in October as part of our efforts to strengthen bilateral commercial ties.

EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Against a difficult backdrop – recent war, no prospect of negotiations, and facing Israeli elections – the President began his term by immediately appointing Senator George Mitchell as full time Special Envoy to the Middle East. As the result of the concerted efforts of Special Envoy Mitchell and our diplomatic team, we have successfully completed two rounds of proximity talks, where Senator Mitchell conducted meetings with both Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Abbas and discussed serious and substantive core issues. We have also convinced both parties about the importance of a return to direct negotiations. The Administration continues to support the improvement of Palestinian security efforts and institutional reforms under

President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad, and continues to secure increased Arab financial support for the Palestinian Authority.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

The President strongly reaffirmed America's commitment to seek a world in which no nations hold nuclear weapons.

New START and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: The United States concluded a New START Treaty with Russia, which was signed by Presidents Obama and Medvedev on April 8, reducing the limits on strategic offensive warheads by approximately 30 percent and the limits on strategic delivery vehicles by over 50 percent compared with previous treaties. The New START Treaty has been submitted to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification and we hope to have the treaty into force by the end of this year. We have taken steps to strengthen the NPT in our diplomacy, achieved an increase in the IAEA safeguards budget, and reached international agreement on an arrangement to enable states to obtain nuclear energy without additional enrichment or reprocessing facilities.

Secure Vulnerable Nuclear Weapons and Material: The President has underscored that nuclear terrorism is the most immediate and extreme threat we and other nations face, and called for a four-year effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear material worldwide to prevent nuclear terrorism at its source. In April 2010, he hosted in Washington a historic Summit of leaders from 47 nations and three international organizations to advance that goal. Over 30 nations announced specific steps to better secure nuclear materials and prevent smuggling, and endorsed the President's four-year lockdown effort and an agreed upon work-plan to pursue it. U.S. threat reduction programs this year have reduced the nuclear threat in many ways through securing and/or destroying nuclear materials and delivery systems, reducing civilian use of weapons-usable materials, and improving our own and other countries' abilities to detect and interdict nuclear smuggling. The President's FY11 budget proposes a 30%+ increase in funding for nuclear security programs.

Iranian Nuclear Program: For the first time in almost a decade, the United States is fully contributing to and leading international efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon through a combination of tough, principled diplomacy and pressure on Iran. The focus is now where it should be: on the Iranian government and the decisions they face. Last month, Secretary Clinton announced that the P5+1 had reached consensus on a new and wide-ranging U.N. Security Council sanctions resolution that will urgently bring together the international community around measures to sharpen the choice that Iran faces. Even Iran's friends and close trade partners are lending their support. This newfound multilateral effort strengthens our diplomatic hand as we seek to resolve the challenges posed by Iran's nuclear program.

6. Obama: India Is a Critical Center of Influence (06-04-2010)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.

Washington — President Obama says that a critical pillar of his national security strategy involves deepening cooperation with 21st-century centers of influence — “and that includes India.”

“The United States values our partnership not because of where India is on a map, but because of what we share and where we can go together,” [Obama said June 3](#) at a special reception for Indian External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna and his delegation. Krishna and senior Indian officials were in Washington for the four-day U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue.

“India is indispensable to the future that we seek,” the president added. Since his administration began 16 months ago, a third of the Cabinet has traveled to India, and that helps explain the depth

of the strategic dialogue between the two nations. The Obama administration has begun using strategic dialogues as a means for deeper consultations and commitment among select nations.

Obama also announced that he will visit India for talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his government in early November. Singh was invited to Washington in November 2009 in the Obama administration's first state visit, during which he asked Obama to visit India. (See [photo gallery](#).)

“Prime Minister Singh and I are very proud to take credit for our two nations forging an unprecedented partnership through this strategic dialogue,” Obama said. The [U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue](#) was first announced by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in July 2009.

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

In addition to advancing global security and stability, delegates from India and the United States met in 18 dialogues during the four-day meeting to expand cooperation in trade and investment, science and technology, infrastructure investment, environmental sustainability, climate change, energy security, education, agriculture, food security, health care and empowerment. The talks underscored the specific purpose of this session of the dialogue — which will rotate between New Delhi and Washington — to launch the process, identify issues that will require more study, and determine how to address them.

In the area of security, Clinton thanked the Indian government for its support and efforts in Afghanistan with contributions to reconstruction, capacity building and development. Krishna said that India and the United States have a convergent goal of a stable, peaceful, pluralistic and democratic Afghanistan that protects its people and threatens no others in the region.

Clinton and Krishna pledged full implementation of the 2008 civil nuclear cooperation accord. The two reiterated that nuclear energy can make a significant contribution to building a sustainable and clean energy future.

Trade and investment garnered considerable attention during the talks because of the rising level of two-way trade, reaching more than \$60 billion in 2009. A portion of the talks in Washington included the U.S.-India Business Council because of the intense interest among American and Indian companies.

India is among the members of the Group of 20 advanced economies. Krishna and Clinton acknowledged during the talks that the current global economic recovery is still fragile and that, without sustained international support and cooperation, it could falter. The two leaders called for a balanced and ambitious conclusion to World Trade Organization development efforts that are intended to liberalize global trade, reduce national barriers and resist protectionism.

The two nations also strengthened bilateral cooperation in three areas — broad economic policy, financial sector reforms and infrastructure financing.