

Crises of the International Non-proliferation Regime and the Role of the Ad Hoc Consultation Mechanism: The Role of EU3+3 in the Iranian Nuclear Crisis

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Iran's nuclear crises have posed a serious challenge to the verification, compliance and enforcement mechanisms of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Such institutional deficiencies are expected to be overcome by utilizing sanctions via United Nations Security Council resolutions. In addition, an ad hoc consultation mechanism, namely EU3+3, has functioned as a channel for the international community, through which negotiations with Iran proceed concerning its cooperation with IAEA, in order to clarify outstanding questions concerning its nuclear related activities.

However, there is a mismatch between the mandate of the mechanisms of the international non-proliferation regime and the core interests of Iran, which has driven the Iranian government to stubbornly pursue nuclear development. While Iran's real motive behind nuclear development is to gain regional security and diplomatic leadership, the existing mechanisms for dialogue with Iran have failed to address that issue to date. Despite the fact that EU3+3 is a less than ideal framework to deal with the same, such an ad hoc mechanism has the potential to cover up this mismatch. However, heavy dependence on ad hoc mechanisms in the enforcement of compliance might result in a rise in transaction and maintenance costs of the international non-proliferation regime.