

# U.S. RESTORES SANCTION WAIVER TO IRAN

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Joe Biden

The U.S. State Department is waiving sanctions on Iran's civilian nuclear programme in a technical step necessary to return to the 2015 nuclear agreement, a senior official said on Friday.

The resumption of the waiver, ended by the Donald Trump administration in 2020, "would be essential to ensuring Iran's swift compliance" if a new deal on controlling Tehran's nuclear programme can be reached in talks in Vienna, the State Department official said.

The waiver allows other countries and companies to participate in Iran's civilian nuclear programme without triggering U.S. sanctions on them, in the name of promoting safety and non-proliferation.

The civilian programme includes Iran's increasing stockpiles of enriched uranium.

"Absent this sanctions waiver, detailed technical discussions with third parties regarding disposition of stockpiles and other activities of nonproliferation value cannot take place," the official said, insisting on anonymity.

The Vienna talks, which include Iran, the United States, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia, are at a key stage where the parties have to make "critical political decisions," a senior U.S. official said last week.

"The technical discussions facilitated by the waiver are necessary in the final weeks of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) talks," the State Department official said on Friday.

The U.S. official insisted that the move was not "part of a quid pro quo," as the partners in the JCPOA talks await Iran's response .

## Not a sweeping measure

State Department spokesman Ned Price insisted this U.S. step is a sanctions waiver for the civilian nuclear programme and not broader sanctions relief.

Mr. Price wrote on Twitter: "We did NOT provide sanctions relief for Iran and WILL NOT until/unless Tehran returns to its commitments under the JCPOA. We did precisely what the last Administration did: permit our international partners to address growing nuclear nonproliferation and safety risks in Iran."

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