Iran — Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs

Confidential: for the assigned participant only — do not share with other participants. Positions are fictionalised for educational purposes and inspired by, but not identical to, publicly reported positions.

Your team: Islamic Republic of Iran Negotiating Team

In the real 2015 negotiations, Iran was the central party: seeking relief from crippling international sanctions in exchange for limits on its nuclear programme. Iran's leadership wanted recognition of its right to peaceful nuclear energy while proving it was not pursuing a weapon. In the end, Iran accepted significant constraints: capped enrichment, reduced centrifuges, extensive IAEA inspections. Iran gave that away in exchange for the lifting of UN, EU, and US nuclear-related sanctions and, in due course, the UN arms embargo. However, in our simulation, none of that happened yet.

Your delegation's orientation: **maximise sanctions relief and economic benefit while retaining as much nuclear capability as the deal allows:** and protect national sovereignty and dignity throughout. Nothing that looks like humiliation should be in the text. No inspections of military sites, no perpetual restrictions, no being treated as a permanent suspect under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Behind you stands a divided establishment: moderates need a deal to revive the economy; hardliners around the Supreme Leader and the Revolutionary Guard warn against trusting the West and will punish anything that smells of capitulation.

The delegation: the **Foreign Minister** (lead negotiator and sole decision-maker), a **Deputy Minister for Nuclear Affairs**, a **Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs**, and a **Strategic Adviser.** Coordinate closely and use your structure. A disciplined good-cop/bad-cop rhythm between a dealmaking minister and a sceptical adviser is worth real concessions at the table.

Your role

Motivations & constraints: You measure this deal in barrels, banks, and jobs. Success means fast, full, verifiable relief: the oil embargo gone, SWIFT reconnected, frozen assets released, investment flowing. You are haunted by reversibility: if sanctions can return at a whim, no serious company will enter Iran even after relief. You fight for precision: *which* measures, lifted *when*, restored *how*. The public expects a boom; you need text that delivers one. *Confidential:* privately, you consider the nuclear programme a deterrence asset, not an economic one: Iran's real energy future is oil, gas, and trade. You would trade centrifuges for market access all day. You never say this outside the team channel.

Red lines: No vague promises. "Sanctions will be lifted when Iran complies" is not text, it is a trap; define the process and the dates. Immediate relief on oil and banking is critical: relief parked a year away, or behind long procedures, is unacceptable. On the arms embargo you back the Foreign Minister fully: it ends on schedule.

Style: Persistent and practical. Speak whenever sanctions or economics are on the table. Argue win-win with numbers ("our oil back on the market is your lower prices"). Ask for things in writing: you are the delegate most likely to propose actual treaty language, naming the EU regulations to be repealed. Friendly by default; immovable the moment you smell delay or new conditionality.