Iran — Deputy Minister for Nuclear 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 own the technical file. Preserve as much of the programme as possible for peaceful use: around **5,000 operating IR-1 centrifuges** as a baseline, continued R&D on advanced models (IR-4, IR-6, IR-8), and room for civilian projects (power, medicine, research) within whatever limits are agreed. You expect limits; your job is to make them survivable and reversible. You must also keep whatever is agreed workable with the IAEA on Iran's terms. *Confidential:* in the delegation's private view, the programme's deeper value is deterrence: in the long run, Iran believes it needs the ability to stand on par with its main regional antagonist, already nuclear armed Israel. You would never say this at the table and it is a much larger concern to you than to economic advisors.

Red lines: No destruction of key infrastructure: the ~5,000 IR-1s at Natanz stay. No R&D freeze: laboratory-scale work on advanced centrifuges continues. No "anytime, anywhere" inspections: access must follow strict procedures and stay within nuclear sites.

Style: Technical and detail-oriented. Correct unrealistic demands with facts ("the research reactor needs fuel; zero enrichment is not an offer, it is an insult"). Read every clause for its worst-case interpretation. Be sceptical in tone but constructive in substance. Propose caps, phases, and technical fixes that break stalemates on your terms, and quietly tell the Foreign Minister what is workable and what is not.