

# Beyond Implementation Day: A Brief Statement on U.S. Policy Toward Iran

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**A bipartisan group of American diplomats, legislators, policymakers, and experts cites the need for vigilance in enforcing the nuclear deal and urges the administration to reject the idea of Iran as an ally in the anti-ISIL campaign.**

In this policy statement marking the nuclear deal's "Implementation Day," a group of experts organized by The Washington Institute urges the Obama administration to take steps ensuring Iran's full compliance with its many continuing commitments, and to implement a truly robust regional strategy designed to push back on Tehran's problematic behavior throughout the Middle East.

"It is a mistake to infer that Iran has now satisfied its requirements [under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action]," the statement reads. "To ensure Iran's full compliance over the life of the JCPOA, it is essential that the United States, along with its P5+1 partners, establish the highest level of vigilance now." Toward that end, the sixteen distinguished bipartisan experts called on Washington and its partners to ensure that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has put in place the monitoring regime called for in the nuclear accord and to undertake whatever intelligence gathering is necessary to verify Iran's compliance.

The statement also emphasized that the administration must "take the moment of Implementation Day -- and Iran's receipt of considerable sums in sanctions relief -- to implement a truly robust strategy to counter Iranian destabilization" in the Middle East. The group recommends bolstering U.S. support for traditional regional allies; more active efforts to counter Iranian military and other support to terrorist proxies; and swifter resort to punitive measures, including sanctions, as a response to egregious actions by Iran outside the scope of the JCPOA. The group specifically urged the White House to counter the perception that Iran is a constructive partner in the counter-ISIL campaign. "Nothing could be further from the truth," the group argued. "The reality is that Iran's policy across the region is to promote instability."

Download the PDF above to read the full statement.

The group previously drafted a [June 2015 statement \(http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/public-statement-on-u.s.-policy-toward-the-iran-nuclear-negotiations\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/public-statement-on-u.s.-policy-toward-the-iran-nuclear-negotiations) on the nuclear negotiations and an [August statement \(http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/assessing-the-iran-nuclear-agreement-and-the-institutes-iran-study-group-ju\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/assessing-the-iran-nuclear-agreement-and-the-institutes-iran-study-group-ju) on the JCPOA.

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