



PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

**U.S. ROLE IN THE WORLD
ABBREVIATED QUESTIONNAIRE — IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL**

January 2017

Sample Size: 2980 respondents

Survey Dates: Fielded December 22 – 28, 2016

Margin of Error: 1.8%

As you may know, the UN Security Council—including the US—plus Germany made a deal with Iran about its nuclear program. Currently, there is some debate about whether the US should continue with the deal or withdraw from it and seek to renegotiate and try to get better terms.

Here is some background. The primary focus of the deal was on limiting Iran's capacity for enriching uranium. Uranium enriched at low levels is useful for nuclear energy. At high levels of enrichment it can be used for nuclear weapons. Keeping large amounts of low enriched uranium is also a concern, because this reduces the amount of time it would take to produce enough high enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon.

Here is what Iran agreed to do:

- Recommit to never build a nuclear weapon.
- Limit its uranium enrichment to the low level that is useful for nuclear energy, but well below the level needed for nuclear weapons. After 15 years Iran will be able to enrich to a somewhat higher level, such as for medical purposes, but not to develop a military capability.
- Reduce by 98 percent its stockpile of low-enriched uranium—and keep it that small for 15 years.
- Reduce its number of centrifuges (the devices that enrich uranium) by two-thirds—keeping only its older and slower centrifuge models—for 10 years. The other centrifuges will go into storage monitored by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency.
- Allow intrusive inspections of all nuclear facilities to ensure that the terms of the agreement are being met.
- Allow inspection of any site, including military bases, where inspectors have evidence of suspicious activity, although Iran can appeal to a commission of the signing countries.
- In exchange, the UN and the EU agreed to lift their nuclear-related sanctions on Iran. The US agreed to suspend its nuclear-related sanctions, but its other sanctions remain. If Iran is found to be in violation of the agreement, the nuclear-related sanctions will automatically come back into force.

To date, the UN has certified that Iran has fulfilled all of the requirements of the deal. The nuclear-related sanctions on Iran have been lifted, though other US sanctions on Iran remain.

Here is an argument in favor of the US **withdrawing** from the deal.

Q27. This was not a good deal because it allows Iran to still conduct some uranium enrichment, letting it get more skilled at the process. Furthermore, after 10-15 years many limits on Iran are ended, leaving it free to

enrich uranium to a higher level. This makes it more possible that Iran will suddenly violate its agreement to not build nuclear weapons and try to quickly build a nuclear weapon. It is better for the US to withdraw from the deal, try to get other UN Security Council members to withdraw as well, and then renegotiate the deal to put greater limitations on Iran.

How convincing do you find this argument?

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	17.2%	34.9%	52.1%	25.7%	19.7%	45.4%	2.5%
GOP	31.4%	41.5%	72.9%	17.5%	8.2%	25.7%	1.3%
Dem.	6.5%	27.7%	34.2%	32.9%	30.2%	63.1%	2.8%
Indep.	13.5%	39.2%	52.7%	24.8%	18.0%	42.8%	4.5%

Here is an argument in favor of the US **continuing** with the deal.

Q28. Iran has dramatically reduced its nuclear program, making it impossible for it to build a nuclear weapon. We should keep a close watch to ensure that Iran is abiding by the deal, but as long as it does we should uphold our end of the bargain. Other UN members strongly oppose the US pulling out, so if we do others are not likely to follow, leaving the US isolated. This will give Iran an excuse to say that the US acted in bad faith, pull out of the deal and renew its nuclear program at a higher level, increasing the danger that it will make a nuclear weapon.

How convincing do you find this argument?

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't know
National	24.1%	39.0%	63.1%	20.5%	14.3%	34.8%	2.2%
GOP	9.7%	37.1%	46.8%	25.9%	25.8%	51.7%	1.6%
Dem.	38.2%	40.5%	78.7%	15.6%	4.0%	19.6%	1.7%
Indep.	19.1%	39.3%	58.4%	21.2%	15.3%	36.5%	5.1%

Q29. If the US were to withdraw from the deal, how likely do you think it would be that other UN members would agree to withdraw from the deal and seek to renegotiate the deal with Iran?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Total likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	Total unlikely	Refused / Don't know
National	15.1%	42.7%	57.8%	33.1%	7.1%	40.2%	1.9%
GOP	17.3%	45.9%	63.2%	31.0%	4.7%	35.7%	1.1%
Dem.	13.7%	38.2%	51.9%	36.8%	9.4%	46.2%	2.0%
Indep.	13.8%	47.5%	61.3%	28.2%	6.8%	35.0%	3.6%

Q30. If the US were to withdraw from the deal, how likely do you think it would be that Iran would agree to renegotiate the deal and make more concessions?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Total likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	Total unlikely	Refused / Don't know
National	6.1%	23.3%	29.4%	43.8%	25.0%	68.8%	1.8%
 GOP	7.5%	26.8%	34.3%	45.5%	18.9%	64.4%	1.2%
Dem.	4.7%	19.3%	24.0%	44.0%	30.6%	74.6%	1.5%
Indep.	6.5%	26.1%	32.6%	39.3%	24.0%	63.3%	4.2%

Q31. So now, in conclusion, in regard to the UN deal on Iran's nuclear program, do you think the US should:

1. Withdraw from the current deal and seek to negotiate a new deal
2. Continue with the deal as long as Iran complies with the terms

	Withdraw from the current deal and seek to negotiate a new deal	Continue with the deal as long as Iran complies with the terms	Refused/ Don't know
National	34.4%	63.7%	2.0%
 GOP	58.1%	40.4%	1.5%
Dem.	13.2%	85.6%	1.2%
Indep.	36.5%	58.6%	4.9%