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22 June 2018

To: APO Directors

Dear Sir/Madam:

APO projects/activities relating to IR Iran

On 8 May 2018, the US withdrew its participation in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and to begin reimposing nuclear-related sanctions against IR Iran that had previously been lifted. In conjunction with that announcement, various US agencies were directed to implement that decision. In connection with the above, our banks informed the Secretariat that they were unable to make cross-border payments on the APO's behalf for any transactions related to IR Iran for financial commitments. The types of financial commitments include payments to IR Iran, payments to other member countries whose participants travel to IR Iran, payments to experts who are assigned to any Iranian-related projects, etc.

As a result of the US sanctions, the APO can no longer fulfill its financial obligations to all member countries on payments relating to IR Iran. Examples of activities that require financial commitments include all APO projects hosted by IR Iran, assigning APO experts to IR Iran to provide technical assistance, assignment of Iranian resource persons to other member countries, accepting Iranian participants for APO projects held outside IR Iran, etc.

We are still exploring solutions together with IR Iran and other stakeholders but currently there is no feasible solution that allows APO to implement projects in IR Iran. Therefore, in consultation with the APO Chairs, we regret to announce that the postponement of all projects to be hosted by IR Iran until further notice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Santhi Kanoktanaporn', is located below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

Dr. Santhi Kanoktanaporn
Secretary-General

cc: APO Alternate Directors, NPO Heads, and Liaison Officers