

The Elders hail progress in Iran nuclear talks

Kofi Annan calls for swift progress and an early resolution of the crisis

Cape Town, South Africa

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Meeting in Cape Town, The Elders today hailed the positive steps taken in recent weeks on the Iranian nuclear crisis. The new-found flexibility and seriousness being shown by all sides in tackling the dispute was a source of particular satisfaction.

Looking ahead to the next round of talks in Geneva between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries in November, as well as a planned visit to Iran by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), The Elders called on all parties to maintain the same constructive and determined spirit – with a view to an early resolution of all issues.

[Kofi Annan](#), Chair of The Elders and former UN Secretary-General said:

“A comprehensive approach is essential, to get to the core of the legitimate concerns that, for many years now, have made this issue one of the most worrisome on the global agenda. All nations have rights and responsibilities in equal measure. You cannot have one without the other.

“This is an historic opportunity that should not be dropped. If the international community can get this right, the possibility of transforming the negative dynamics plaguing the Middle East for the better is the great prize to be won.”

Recognising the potential opposition to a deal that leaders in both the United States and Iran face, The Elders praised the courage being shown by both the Obama Administration and the new Iranian Government headed by President Hassan Rouhani.

About The Elders

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders were in Cape Town, South Africa, in October 2013 for their biannual board meeting.

The Elders are [Martti Ahtisaari](#), [Kofi Annan](#) (Chair), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (Deputy Chair), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Nelson Mandela](#) and [Desmond Tutu](#) are honorary Elders.

For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to www.theElders.org.

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