U.S. and Iran Make ‘Some Progress’ on Nuclear Talks

MOSCOW – The U.S. and Iranian foreign ministers wrapped up three days of talks over Iran’s nuclear program on Wednesday with the announcement of a “positive understanding.” But the agreement is far from final, and it remains to be seen whether it will hold in the face of international skepticism.

The meeting in Vienna was attended by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif. Lavrov said the two sides had made progress, but added that “we have but a lot of work remaining.” The meeting concluded on July 14, just days after the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution on Iran’s nuclear program.

The agreement, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is designed to ensure that Iran’s nuclear program is not used for military purposes. It sets limits on Iran’s nuclear activities, including the enrichment of uranium, and requires that Iran allow international inspectors to monitor its nuclear facilities.

The deal also includes provisions for sanctions relief, which are designed to provide Iran with a way to get back on its feet economically.

The agreement is expected to come into force within the next several months. Its success will depend on continued compliance by both sides, as well as the ability of the international community to cooperate in implementing the sanctions relief measures.

The United States, Europe, and Iran have all stated their commitment to implementing the agreement, but questions remain over how effectively it will be enforced.

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