

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's opening remarks at the meeting with former US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, Moscow, June 1, 2018

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Mr Moniz,

We are happy to welcome you in your new position as a co-chair of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI). We know you as a participant in the international efforts to promote non-proliferation and new forms of cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

When you were the US Secretary of Energy, in 2013, the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States signed an Intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation in Nuclear- and Energy-Related Scientific Research and Development, which is now called 123 Agreement. Since then, practical contacts and the work on implementing this agreement have been frozen, due to circumstances beyond our control.

I hope that in your current position you will facilitate the restoration of the normal forms of cooperation between our countries in the field of nuclear power, all the more so since today you are holding a relevant round table discussion together with Mr Ivanov in the Russian International Affairs Council.

We will be very interested to hear your assessment of the current situation regarding Iran's nuclear programme, given that you were the main architect of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Welcome!