China reiterates UN resolution on Iran not end to diplomatic efforts

BEIJING — China reiterated Thursday the UN's adoption of a new resolution on the Iranian nuclear issue does not close the door to diplomacy. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang made the remarks at a regular news briefing.

Resolution 1929 is the fourth set of UN sanctions against Iran since December 2006. It prohibits Iran from issuing export licenses on nuclear enrichment and imposes new restrictions on Iran's import of conventional arms.

Qin affirmed the resolution reflects the concerns of the international community regarding Iran in the nuclear and security issues, adding that if the country continues on the path of dialogue and negotiation, it will be able to resolve the issue in a peaceful manner.

The sanctions, aiming at cutting off the country's access to the global oil market, have been described by many analysts as a strategic move by the West to force Iran to negotiate over its nuclear program.

Qin stressed that China’s consideration in addressing the issue is maintaining the integrity of international relations, and the fact that Iran is allowed to engage in normal economic activities.

China’s position is clear: it supports the resolution as a necessary step in the process of diplomacy and non-violent resolution of conflicts.

The West has repeatedly urged Iran to come to the negotiating table, but so far no significant progress has been made.

In the meantime, the United Nations has urged all parties to refrain from actions that could undermine the success of the negotiations.

A resolution passed last week by the UN Security Council expanded the list of sanctioned individuals and entities, including Iranian ships and airlines.

Qin said that China believes that the resolution offers a chance for Iran to resume talks with the international community, and that a solution can be found through dialogue.

China has been a key player in the negotiations on Iran’s nuclear program, and has consistently called for diplomacy to resolve the issue.

The Chinese diplomat also stressed the need for all parties to maintain restraint and avoid provoking tensions.

The UN resolution will be up for review in June, and the international community remains divided on how to deal with the issue going forward.

Qin concluded that China will continue to support the diplomatic process, and will work with other countries to find a peaceful solution.

Cont on page 5