

## **UN set to approve Iran sanctions**

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The United Nations Security Council is on Wednesday morning set to approve sanctions against Iran's Revolutionary Guard, its main shipping line and two of its banks, after a six-month push by the Obama administration.

The resolution – to be voted on in New York – also bans sale to Iran of a range of military equipment while setting out rules for maritime interdiction of components for its nuclear and missile programmes.

"These are the most significant sanctions that Iran has ever faced," Hillary Clinton, secretary of state, said on Tuesday.

But Washington's effort to foster global unity on the issue has been dented by resistance from Turkey, Brazil and Lebanon – temporary members of the 15-member Security Council – which have signalled their opposition to sanctions.

"Certainly we have 12 votes in favour," said a UN diplomat. "Whether we will get three abstentions or some votes against has still be decided."

After months of negotiations between the Obama administration and Russia and China, the draft resolution also falls short of Washington's initial ambitions, which included more sweeping measures against the Iranian energy sector and a wider range of banks.

US officials say other authorities, such as the US Treasury, Congress and the European Union will pass tougher measures once the UN has voted.

"I believe that a number of nations are prepared to act pretty promptly," Robert Gates, US secretary of defence, said on Tuesday.

A key example is the Iranian central bank, which the UN draft resolution says warrants "vigilance" – wording officials say paves the way for direct sanctions against it by individual countries.

The draft also targets 15 companies allegedly linked to the Revolutionary Guard, 21 groups connected to the banned programmes, a Malaysian arm of Bank Mellat, a nuclear official and three subsidiaries of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines.

Iran insists its nuclear programme is purely peaceful.

**Fonte: Financial Times, London, June 8<sup>th</sup> 2010, Iran, online.**