


s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Title: IAEA: Iran: Update ahead of March Board of Governors meeting
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 27/02/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: Brussels , Tel Aviv , IAEA Board of Governors (2025-26) , Geneva UN , UN
New York , Tehran , Wellington
From: Vienna UN
Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only
Summary:
s 33(a)(iii)

On 24 February Post (s 22(1)(a)(ii)), s 33(a)(iii)
, called on s 33(a)(iii) to
discuss the current status of the Iran nuclear file ahead of the IAEA Board of Governors
meeting (2-6 March) (s 22(1)(a)(ii)). Cable reports on this, and Post's other discussions in
Vienna on Iran.

s 33(a)(iii) into the US-Iran talks in Geneva: s 33(a)(iii)



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Sent By: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Prepared By: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Approved By: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Topics: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY/Arms Control , UN & COMMONWEALTH
/UN Discussions , INTERNATIONAL SECURITY/Strategic Policy

Canberra distribution

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To:



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Cc: DFAT PARLT

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Foreign Minister , s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 3 March 2026 2:08 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @lists.dfat.gov.au
Subject: DFAT Talking Points - Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 V7 - v8
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive



MEDIA TALKING POINTS DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS

Topic: CONSULAR
Subject: Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 V7

Originating Division: CCD

Version Date: 3/3/2026

Reason for Update: Developments in the region

Version: 8

Expiry: 1/04/2026

Talking Points

Key messages

- *The Middle East region remains unpredictable and the situation on the ground is rapidly changing*
 - we understand this is a difficult time for Australians impacted by these events
 - the Government's priority is the safety and security of Australians - we have activated DFAT's 24/7 Crisis Centre to support affected Australians
 - Australians in the region should prioritise their safety, monitor events, and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions
 - Australians should prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.
- The conflict continues to escalate and expand
 - Iran fired missiles or drones at *ten* regional countries [*UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Oman, Israel, Iraq, Jordan*]
 - it has broadened its retaliatory strikes against energy infrastructure and civilian areas – airports, roads, and other transport infrastructure could become targets.
- We call on Iran and its proxies to cease their indiscriminate attacks against other countries in the region, many of which are not party to this conflict
 - and to refrain from indiscriminate military strikes against civilians and civilian infrastructure
 - we want to avoid escalation into a broader regional conflict with consequences for the people of the region.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has posed a threat to its own people, the region, and international peace and security
 - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.

- It has long been recognised that Iran's nuclear program is a threat to global peace and security
 - and the Iranian regime can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.
- We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We join our partners in calling on all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law.
- Civilians must be protected
 - we urge a return to dialogue and diplomacy.
- Recognise this is a distressing time for so many in the Australian-Iranian community
 - compounded by the communications blackout and an inability to reach friends and family in Iran
 - we reiterate the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their own future for their country.

Consular

- We will continue to support Australians to navigate the disruption ahead, providing regular travel advice updates and consular assistance where we can
 - noting there are limits to what any government can do in a fast-moving and uncertain environment
 - there will be flight delays and cancellations, both in the region and globally – including on routes to Europe
 - scheduled flights can change at short notice.
- *We are currently prioritising Australian non-resident travellers in major transit hubs who are unable to leave due to airspace closures.*
- DFAT has opened a portal for registration of Australians in Iran, Israel, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar [1 March for Iran and Israel, 2 March for UAE and Qatar]
 - a registration portal can be accessed through the Smartraveller website
 - the registration portal is for Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members who have right of entry into Australia
 - immediate family members include:
 - the partner of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
 - children (under 18 years old) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
 - the parent/legal guardian of an Australian citizen or permanent resident child (under 18 years old)
 - registering your details in this portal allows the Australian Government to provide you directly with latest advice, relevant to your location.
- We now advise Australians ‘do not travel’ to most destinations in the Middle East
 - this includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen
 - if you are in any of these countries, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow local advice and leave when it is safe to do so
 - Australians should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which is being regularly updated, and subscribe for updates
 - *we advise Australians in Oman, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to ‘reconsider your need to travel’.*
- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
 - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period - make sure you have supplies of food, water and medication
 - *The Australian Embassy’s operations are suspended and our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited.*

- Urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action
 - closely monitor events and local media
 - check directly with your travel agent or airlines to confirm your plans
 - review travel insurance to understand what is covered in the event of cancellations
 - monitor Smartraveller for updates and the latest travel advice.
- *Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).*

Is Australia considering assisted departures for Australians?

- Our first priority is doing all we can to ensure the safety of Australians in the region.
- The airspace is closed; Australia is not facilitating assisted departures at this stage
 - we advise Australians to prioritise their safety, and shelter in place.

Did Australia receive any advance warning of the strikes?

- Australia was not told in advance and would not expect to be.
- Australia is not at the centre of issues in the Middle East, but we play a role in the international community.

Why didn't Australia update travel advice to warn Australians of the risk?

- *Since the beginning of the year, there have been 41 travel advice updates issued by the Australian government for the region, and 26 social media posts.*
- *On 15 January the Foreign Minister gave a media conference where she warned that the airspace could close in the coming weeks in the region.*
- *On 19 January, Smartraveller was updated again, advising travellers to exercise a high degree of caution if considering travel to the Middle East.*

Has Israel/the US requested any Australian military support for its strikes?

- We do not discuss the details of operational discussions with partners.

Will Australia provide any military support for Israeli/US strikes if asked?

- *We are not expecting any requests for Australian military assets to be involved.*

Are Israeli/US strikes against Iran consistent with international law?

- It is for Israel and the US to explain the legal basis of their actions.
- *Australia does not have access to the intelligence that Israel and the US had prior to the launch of these attacks.*

Does Australia support US President Trump's call for regime change in Iran?

- The Prime Minister has made clear that we stand with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression
 - a regime that relies on the repression and murder of its own people to retain power is without legitimacy.
- The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their own future for their country.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has been a destabilising force through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- Australia has directly experienced the Iranian regime's campaign of violence and intimidation
 - Iran has directed at least two attacks on Australian soil
 - these appalling acts targeting Australia's Jewish community were intended to create fear, divide our society and challenge our sovereignty.
- In response, Australia took the unprecedented steps of expelling Iran's Ambassador, suspending operations at our embassy in Tehran, and listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism.
- We have consistently taken strong action to hold Iran to account for its domestic and international abuses
 - we bolstered Australia's autonomous sanctions framework to target those involved in oppressing people in Iran and threatening or undermining the sovereignty or territorial integrity of another country
 - since the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, we have sanctioned over 200 Iranian individuals and entities, including more than 100 with links to the IRGC.

What is the Government's position on the reported strike on a school in southern Iran?

- We are aware of reports of a strike hitting a school in southern Iran [multiple outlets, 2 March].
- We are not in a position to verify these reports.
- US Central Command (CENTCOM) has told media outlets that it is taking these reports seriously and that protection of civilians is of the utmost importance.
- *We join with our partners in calling for all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law.*

Is the Government aware of Iranian disruptions to international shipping?

- We are aware of reports of the Iranian regime seeking to block international shipping routes
 - we are monitoring the situation closely.
- We urge the Iranian regime to avoid actions that will escalate tensions further and impact regional stability.

Will there be any impact on oil prices for Australians?

- While we are prepared for any impact to the Australian economy from disrupted oil supply, much will depend on what happens in the Persian Gulf in coming weeks
 - a shorter trade disruption is less likely to feed through to Australian pump prices
 - trade disruption is likely to lead to higher oil prices if sustained, which could impact the global economy.

Will Australia impose further sanctions on Iran?

- Australia imposed sanctions on a further 20 Iranian individuals and 3 Iranian entities on 3 February 2026 in response to Iran's brutal repression of protests.
- We do not speculate *publicly* on potential sanctions.

Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

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Background

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. The death of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei was confirmed on 1 March.

Iran and its proxies have retaliated by striking various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, *Oman*, Saudi Arabia and the UAE *including civilian airports in Dubai, Kuwait and Bahrain*.

International shipping authorities have also reported significant military activity in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the Arabian Sea. Media reporting indicates the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is attempting to block shipping lanes critical for international oil trade.

Qatar has paused production of liquified natural gas after Iranian attacks on the Ras Laffan and Mesaieed facilities. Saudi Arabia has also shut its Ras Tanura oil refinery after it was hit by debris from an intercepted Iranian drone.

Japan, Italy, India, the Philippines and Austria have assisted departures from the region, and other countries including Canada and Germany are planning assisted departures.

Australian Government Consular Response

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated. The ECU has so far received 2,340 calls (as at 1200, 3 March, inclusive of 38 calls received by the Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated). The majority of callers are seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions *and persons in Lebanon who wish to register online for assistance*.

On 1 March, DFAT opened the Registration Online Portal (ROP) for Australians in Iran and Israel. On 2 March, DFAT opened the ROP for Australians in UAE and Qatar. As at 0245, 3 March, 513 Australians and family members are registered on the ROP (49 from Iran; 119 from Israel; 218 from Qatar; 127 from UAE).

As at 1100, 3 March, 9,071 registrations had been received in the ROP. 7,851 registrations are waiting to be assessed for eligibility. 911 registrations have been confirmed as eligible for assistance. Out of these, 821 (90%) want to depart. An additional 309 Afghan foreign citizens have registered from Iran and UAE (who appear to have no right of entry).

Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.

Handling Notes

Media Interest

Approval	
Consultation	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Distribution
s 22(1)(a)(ii) , FMO, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 34(1)(c) – this page, together with the following pages (16-40) are exempt and have been removed.