Top Iranian officials have indicated that Iran will proceed with serious talks on its nuclear program despite the “improper measures” taken by Washington that led Iranian negotiators to withdraw from the negotiating table.

“We will seriously continue the Geneva negotiations, albeit we will show proper, measured, purposeful, and smart responses to any improper and unconstructive action, even those which are not in violation of the agreement,” Foreign Minister Javad Zarif wrote on his Facebook page, according to a translation that appeared in the Tehran Times newspaper.

Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Legal Affairs, Abbas Araqchi, met Tuesday in Brussels with Catherine Ashton, the European Union foreign policy chief who has led the negotiations with Iran on behalf of the P5+1 group (Germany and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – China, France, Great Britain, Russia and the United States).

After the meeting Araqchi confirmed that the talks would continue but criticized what he called the “unconstructive stance” taken by Washington last week, when it expanded a blacklist of companies and individuals accused of violating the sanctions regime that has been imposed against for Iran for its failure to comply with U.N. resolutions on its nuclear program. After the move by Washington, Iranian negotiators walked out of preliminary talks last week to protest the measure.
None of the parties involved confirmed when the new round of preliminary talks would resume.

Iran and the P5+1 group on November 24 agreed to undertake six months of comprehensive negotiations to provide the world assurances that Iran is not using its nuclear program to acquire a nuclear bomb. Iran agreed to freeze and rollback key aspects of its nuclear program during the talks, and received some relief from the economic sanctions against the country.

Zarif, in his Facebook posting, said that he was aware from the beginning that the talks would have “many ups and downs”.

“Over the past few days, the Americans took certain improper measures and we responded in an appropriate and calculated form,” he said. He also noted that certain people “were not happy with the Geneva deal” and have announced its premature death.

Araqchi, in his statements in Brussels, said there are certain people in the U.S. Congress who are trying to sabotage the Geneva agreement. The U.S. House of Representative has discussed the possibility of adopting a bipartisan resolution defining the key characteristics of an acceptable deal with Iran. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has previously urged Congress to avoid taking steps that might upset negotiations, giving negotiators a chance to work out a deal.