**Summary: Adapting to Deviance – The Rise of Selective Realignment Protocols (SRPs)**

This article introduces **Selective Realignment Protocols (SRPs)** as a new category of **treaty-adjacent, actor-specific enforcement tools** designed to restore compliance in international regimes facing chronic normative misalignment. In global systems like the NPT, WTO, and Paris Agreement, states often remain within treaties but deviate from their norms. Traditional enforcement—amendment, expulsion, or universal sanctions—is either infeasible or politically paralyzed. SRPs fill this governance gap.

**SRPs** are:

* **Procedurally embedded** and operate alongside treaties without amending them.
* **Tailored to specific actors**, imposing **sequenced obligations**, monitored by **technical institutions**, with **conditional reintegration**.
* Used where **formal compliance tools fail** and deviance persists—e.g., Iran’s nuclear program (JCPOA), WTO accession protocols, or differentiated climate transparency.

The JCPOA is presented as the **paradigmatic SRP**, featuring:

* Legal hybridity (political agreement + UNSC backing)
* Structured compliance sequencing
* Oversight via IAEA and a Joint Commission
* “Snapback” enforcement and sunset clauses for reintegration

SRPs represent a shift from rigid legal enforcement toward **adaptive, layered governance**, enabling regimes to survive crises without collapse. However, risks include:

* **Norm bifurcation** (double standards)
* **Strategic selectivity** (targeting weak states)
* **Legitimacy erosion**, especially from the Global South
* **Fragmentation** of rule systems and institutional incoherence

The article proposes **design principles** for legitimate SRPs:

* Clear criteria for activation
* Embedding within existing institutions
* Transparent procedures and reintegration pathways
* Time-bounded obligations to avoid permanent exceptionalism

**Conclusion:** SRPs offer a **scalable, flexible enforcement mechanism** for global regimes grappling with persistent noncompliance. If governed transparently and procedurally, they can reconcile universal norms with political realities—restoring alignment without dismantling core legal structures.