



# Raeisi: Iran ready to share its experiences with African countries

## National Desk

President Ebrahim Raeisi said on Monday that Iran is ready to share its experiences and achievements with friendly countries,

especially in the African Continent.

Raeisi made the remarks in a meeting with visiting foreign minister of Burkina Faso, Olivia Rouamba in Tehran.

The Iranian president underscored the need for the creation of a joint commission between the two countries in order to facilitate and expedite trade exchanges between

Tehran and Ouagadougou. Raeisi also praised the African nations' fight against colonialism and terrorism, describing it as a sign of vigilance and attention to the needs of the day.

For her part, Burkina Faso's foreign minister described Iran as a friendly country, saying that Ouagadougou is interested in strengthening mutual cooperation with Tehran.

Back in July, the Iranian president visited the three African countries of Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda to strengthen economic and trade relations with those countries.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (R) meets Burkina Faso's Foreign Minister Olivia Rouamba (L) in Tehran, Iran, on September 4, 2023.

president.ir

## Possibilities of culinary diplomacy in Iran



By Abed Akbari  
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### OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Food diplomacy is the use of food as a tool to promote cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and cooperation among nations. Food diplomacy can take many forms, such as culinary festivals, food aid, gastronomic tourism, and cultural diplomacy programs that showcase the cuisine and culture of a country. Food diplomacy can also serve as a means to enhance the image and soft power of a country in the international arena. Food diplomacy works by creating opportunities for people from different countries and backgrounds to interact and communicate through food. Food can be a common ground that transcends political, religious, and cultural differences and can foster a sense of curiosity, respect, and appreciation for other cultures. Food can also be a way to express one's identity, values, and traditions and to share one's stories and experiences with others. Food can also be a source of pride and joy as well as a catalyst for creativity and innovation.

One example of a country that has been using food diplomacy to improve its image and relations with other countries is Iran. Iran has a rich and



diverse culinary heritage that reflects its history, geography, and culture. Persian food is known for its use of fresh herbs, spices, fruits, nuts, and rice as well as its variety of dishes such as kebabs, stews, soups, salads, breads, pastries, and desserts. Persian food is also influenced by the cuisines of neighboring countries such as Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Central Asia.

Iran has been organizing and participating in various food diplomacy initiatives to showcase its cuisine and culture to the world. For instance, Iran has hosted several international food festivals in Tehran and other cities, inviting chefs, journalists, and diplomats from different countries to taste and learn about Persian food. Iran has also sent delegations of chefs and culinary experts to attend food events and competitions in other countries, such as the World Food Festival in Malaysia, the International Culinary Cup in Thailand, and the World



Iranian chef Najmieh Batmanghelich puts out a spread of Iranian foods from at the White House Nowruz party in Washington, D.C., US, in April 2016.

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Pastry Cup in France. Iran has also supported the establishment of Persian restaurants and cultural centers in foreign countries, such as the Iranian Cultural Center in London, which offers Persian cooking classes and cultural events. By engaging in food diplomacy, Iran hopes to create a positive image of itself as a country with a rich and diverse culture as well as to foster dialogue and friendship with other nations. Food diplomacy can also help to counter the negative stereotypes and misconceptions that some people may have about Iran due to its political and economic situation. Food diplomacy can thus be seen as a way for Iran to share its values, traditions, and identity with the world through the universal language of food.

## 'Postcards from Mexico, Iran' highlights identity preservation



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

An exhibition of photographs titled 'Postcards from Mexico and Iran' is currently on display at the Iranian Art Museum Garden, showcasing a collection of 80 photographs capturing the essence of both countries' cultural treasures.

According to organizers, this exhibition aims to offer a visual exploration of the less-explored facets of Mexico and Iran, emphasizing their enduring cultural identities amidst evolving landscapes. The exhibition, which opened on September 4 and runs until September 13, features the works of prominent photographers Manuel Cerón from Mexico and Patrick Ringgenberg from Switzerland. Their photographs, measuring 30 by 45cm, provide an intimate perspective on landscapes, religious sites, and everyday life in both countries. These photographs shed light on the daily lives of people in Mexico and

Iran, often focusing on environmental and anthropological themes. They capture architectural marvels and offer a unique and profound view of the two nations. Mexico's ambassador to Iran, Guillermo Alejandro Puente Ordorica, in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, expressed the exhibition's significance in fostering cultural cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations. He noted that the exhibition is the result of over 20 years of exploration by photographers, showcasing moments often overlooked by tourists and tour guides while highlighting the authenticity of both countries. Ordorica also highlighted the importance of cultural and artistic endeavors in enhancing bilateral relations. He revealed plans by the Mexican Embassy to organize significant cultural programs in Iran, including writing workshops and traditional handicraft exhibitions, along with Mexican film screenings.



Ebrahim Kamali, the director of the Iranian Art Museum Garden, emphasized the museum's commitment to hosting international cultural and artistic events, facilitating interaction and collaboration between Iranian and foreign artists. He stated that this exhibition, with its diverse perspectives and themes, exemplifies the cultural connections shared between Iran and Latin American countries like Mexico. Kamali also pointed out the exhibition's juxtaposition of different frames and scenes, allowing viewers to compare similar landscapes from both

countries, a feature that adds to its attraction, especially through the lens of non-Iranian photographers.

He added, "In this exhibition, we encounter various frames and scenes, each of which has its counterpart in the opposite country. For instance, we witness a beach landscape in Mexico that resembles a similar scene captured in Iran."

In addition, Kamali noted that the exhibition provides an opportunity for people to witness how foreign photographers view the attractions in Iran, offering a positive and enriching perspective on the country's diverse landscapes and culture.

The 'Postcards from Mexico and Iran' exhibition is not only a testament to cultural cooperation, but also an invitation to delve deeper into the shared cultural heritage of Mexico and Iran. It celebrates the enduring identities of these two nations despite the changes they have undergone throughout history.

## Iran slows its enriching uranium: Report

Iran has slowed the pace at which it is enriching uranium, according to a report by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog seen by some Western media on Monday. While Iran has slowed enrichment, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported other problems with trying to

monitor its program. The report from the watchdog claimed that Iran had denied visas for agency officials and affected their ability to work in other ways as well. Iran has not acknowledged the visa denials. The IAEA said in its report that Iran has 121.6 kilograms of uranium en-

riched up to 60%. That means its stockpile of the fuel is growing at its slowest pace since 2021. A report in May put the stockpile at just over 114 kilograms. Iran's production of uranium enriched to up to 60% has slowed to around 3 kg a month from about 9 kg a month previously, a senior

diplomat said. Overall, the IAEA report estimated Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile at 3,795.5 kilograms. That's a drop from the last IAEA report, which put the stockpile at 4,744.5 kilograms. The stockpile reportedly declined because Iran diluted some of its enriched uranium.