

Multilateralism sole way to establish safe, just world: *Iran at UNSC*

Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani said multilateralism is the only way to establish a safe and just environment where all nations can enjoy sustainable peace and thrive. Addressing a high-level ministerial meeting of the UN Security Council on "multilateral cooperation in the interest of a more just, democratic and sustainable world order", in New York on Tuesday, Bagheri Kani added that Tehran welcomes initiatives to further promote respect for international law. "Multilateralism is key in this regard," he underlined.

"As Secretary General has underlined, global challenges could be solved only through respect for international law, adherence to global commitments and the adoption of appropriate frameworks of multilateral gover-

nance," Bagheri Kani said. The Iranian official said that effective multilateralism is essential for ensuring international peace and security, noting that as a founding member of the United Nations, Iran reaffirms its commitment to effective multilateralism, grounded in international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Bagheri Kani said that Iran has consistently demonstrated its commitment to multilateralism, citing its constructive contribution to the conclusion of the 2015 nuclear agreement with world's powers.

"This successful multilateral initiative addressed an unwarranted crisis and unfounded concern from the West regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program, aiming to lift the illegal and unjust sanctions imposed on the

Iranian nation. However, this multilateral process encountered a significant challenge due to the unilateral actions of the United States and its allies. The US unilateral and unlawful withdrawal from the agreement exemplified unilateralism in the international arena, causing harm to all parties involved," Iran's acting foreign minister said.

Bagheri Kani said Iran's good neighborliness policy also highlights the importance of multilateralism in resolving common concerns and challenges. "In this context, Iran pursues regional dialogue and cooperation to create an environment where resources can be devoted to the progress and development of the region for the benefit of all," he said.

The top Iranian diplomat emphasized the approach and foreign policy of Iran's



Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani (C) addresses a meeting of the UN Security Council on "multilateral cooperation in the interest of a more just, democratic and sustainable world order", in New York, the US, on July 16, 2024.

elected president, which focuses on strengthening multilateralism in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international

law. Bagheri Kani said that President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian has recently outlined his primary foreign policy strategy, which

seek to open new horizons and foster friendly relations with other nations based on dialogue, cooperation, equality, and mutual respect.

Iran rejects claims about killing Trump, says pursues Soleimani case legally

International Desk

Iran on Wednesday rejected "malicious" accusations by US media implicating it in a plot to kill former US president Donald Trump. CNN reported Tuesday that US authorities received intelligence from a "human source" weeks ago on an alleged Iranian plot against the former president, prompting his protection to be boosted. Other US outlets also reported the alleged plot.

CNN said the alleged plot was not linked to Saturday's shooting at a Trump campaign rally in Pennsylvania, in which the former president was wounded and a supporter killed.

The US National Security Council said it had been "tracking Iranian threats against former Trump administration officials for years" after Tehran had threatened revenge for the 2020 assassination of commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Qassem Soleimani in a US drone strike in neighboring Iraq.

Iran's mission to the United Nations called the accusations "unsubstantiated and malicious".

The mission, nevertheless, asserted that "from the Islamic Republic's standpoint, Trump is a criminal, who should be tried and punished in court for [issuing] General Soleimani's assassination order".

"Iran has chosen the legal pathway to hold him accountable," it stated. Foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said Iran "strongly rejects any involvement in the recent armed attack against Trump".

The Islamic Republic considers such claims to be a product of malicious political goals and intents, he added. He added however that Iran remains "determined to prosecute Trump over his direct role in the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani".

Trump ordered his assassination in a drone strike just outside Baghdad airport in January 2020.

Deadly strikes pound Gaza as Netanyahu scuppers truce plan



Nearly 70 percent of UN-run schools across Gaza have been hit during more than nine months of fighting, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said on Tuesday.

"Why do they target us when we are innocent people?" asked Umm Mohammed al-Hasanat, sheltering with her family at a UN-run school in Nuseirat, which was among those hit.

"We do not carry weapons but are just sitting and trying to find safety for ourselves and our children."

Washington has been pushing for a truce deal between Israel and Hamas since President Joe Biden released details of what he said was an Israeli cease-fire roadmap on May 31.

But despite the efforts of Egyptian and Qatari mediators, indirect negotiations between the foes have made no headway.

In a telephone call with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan late Tuesday, the Hamas leader blamed Israel for the deadlock.

Saudi crown prince felicitates Pezeshkian on election win



International Desk

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held a phone call with Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian, congratulating him on his recent election victory, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Wednesday.

The crown prince and Pezeshkian "praised the development of relations between the two countries at various levels, stressing the importance of continuing to enhance cooperation in various fields," SPA said. The Iranian president ex-

pressed his gratitude and appreciation to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for his kind wishes.

The Saudi king had also sent a congratulatory message to Pezeshkian following his election in early July.

King Salman bin Abdulaziz had expressed hope for the "continued development of relations which link our two countries and our two brotherly peoples," SPA said at the time.

Earlier this month, Pezeshkian won a presidential election held after the

sudden death of president Ebrahim Raisi in a tragic helicopter crash in May.

Riyadh and Tehran agreed in a China-brokered deal in March last year to restore diplomatic ties and reopen their respective embassies after seven years of no formal ties.

Saudi Arabia severed ties with Iran in 2016 following an attack by demonstrators on its embassy in Tehran and consulate in Mashhad, who were protesting the execution of a prominent Shia cleric by Riyadh.

Nasrallah warns Israel of 'extensive damage' in case of war

The secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement warned the Israeli regime about an extensively destructive response if it launched a ground invasion of the country.

Sayed Hassan Nasrallah made the remarks on Wednesday, addressing a rally held in the Lebanese capital Beirut on the occasion of Ashura, which commemorates the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam, Press TV reported. "If your tanks come to Leba-

non and south Lebanon, you will not have a shortage of tanks, as you will no longer have any tanks left," he said. Hezbollah and the Israeli regime have been exchanging deadly fire since early October last year.

The firefight began after the regime launched a genocidal war against the Gaza Strip that came following Operation al-Aqsa Storm, a surprise foray by the Gaza-based resistance groups. Hezbollah has vowed to keep up its retaliatory attacks as long as the Israeli regime

continued its war on Gaza, which has so far killed over 38,700 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

Nasrallah noted how Hezbollah's operations had exacted a heavy toll on the regime.

"The toll includes 9,254 individuals, among them officers and soldiers, with 3,000 amputees, 650 paralyzed, 185 completely blind, and several thousand others suffering severe psychological trauma," he said.

"Our front in Lebanon will remain active as long as the aggression against Gaza, its

people, and its resistance continues in all its forms," Nasrallah asserted.

In the same context, he cautioned that potential continuation of the regime's aggression against Gaza would prompt the Lebanese resistance to start targeting "new Israeli settlements that were previously untouched."

Hezbollah's leader noted how resistance groups hailing from Yemen and Iraq had joined to launch similar retaliatory operations against the regime.

He commented on the Yeme-

ni operations that have been targeting Israeli ships and the vessels heading towards the ports of the occupied Palestinian territories in support of war-hit Palestinians in Gaza.

"Yemen has successfully imposed a blockade on the port of Eilat (in the southern part of the occupied territories), leading to its declaration of bankruptcy and causing shipping prices to soar highly. This has had serious repercussions for the entity," Nasrallah said.

"For the first time..., the Is-

raeli entity is experiencing its worst days. For the first time, Israel appears unable to achieve its goals and is attempting to cover up its failures by committing massacres and killing civilians," he remarked.

'A hell with no return'

Iran's interim foreign minister also warned that Lebanon will "definitely be a hell with no return for the Zionists," if the Israeli regime dares expand its brutal war on the Gaza Strip to the Arab country and other fronts in

the region.

Ali Bagheri Kani made the statement while speaking to reporters after a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Tuesday.

"The Zionists cannot make up for their losses in Gaza by expanding their war mongering in other areas in the region, rather they will be plunging themselves deeper into the swamp of much more serious risks," the top Iranian diplomat said.