



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) advises attending members of the Parliament, including Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (2nd L), to cooperate constructively with President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian (3rd L), in Tehran on July 21, 2024. [khamenei.ir](https://www.khamenei.ir)

Pezeshkian's cooperative approach 'shoring up trust'

Former MP: Leader's support crystal clear



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INTERVIEW

Masoud Pezeshkian, who will be kicking off his tenure as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a few days, is zeroing in on an interactive approach and cooperation in both domestic and foreign policy. The question now is what capacities he and his government have to make a go of it. Are other governing bodies and political groups going to pitch in?

To answer this question and others, Iran Daily conducted an exclusive interview with Ali Tajernia, head of Pezeshkian's campaign in Tehran Province and a member of the president-elect's Advisory Council for Choosing Cabinet Members. A dentist by profession, Tajernia is a former member of the Iranian Parliament and one of the influential figures on the reformist front.



IRAN DAILY: Some of President-elect Pezeshkian's statements imply that the main thrust of his plans in the domestic and foreign policy arena is "cooperation". He's been banging the drum that all Iranian institutions and political groups need to pull together to resolve the country's issues. On the home front, based on what components do you reckon he'll be successful in leading a national cooperation initiative?

TAJERNIA: I'm upbeat about Pezeshkian pulling off national cooperation and consensus. Compared to former presidents, he can foster more internal harmony and empathy. Of course, differences of opinion will stand, and typically, radical forces on both sides of the political fence throw a spanner in the works. However, there are several factors that increase the odds of the future government succeeding. The first factor is Pezeshkian's character and his faith in cooperation and interaction. In the past, some others talked about unity and cooperation, but their efforts fell flat because they didn't truly buy into it. They meant unity or cooperation on their terms. However, Pezeshkian genuinely believes in national co-



Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian (C) is greeted by members of the Iranian Parliament in his first visit to the open session since his election, in Tehran on July 21, 2024. [irsna](https://www.irsna.ir)

operation, which is why people from across the spectrum rallied behind his election campaign, especially since his honesty endears others. The second factor is the experiences Iranian political groups have been through over the years. They've realized that shutting out some political groups hasn't boosted government or system efficiency and has, in fact, locked out experienced people from the country's management cycle, which is a setback for

governments and leads to ill-informed, costly decisions. So, based on these lessons, there is reason to anticipate that all Iranian political movements will get serious about consensus and cooperation for more effective government and governance. The third factor is the backing of the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution and governing bodies for the president-elect. Although Pezeshkian is reformist-leaning in his discourse, we've witnessed

those bodies throwing their weight behind him in recent weeks, pledging to lend a hand to his government. The Leader's remarks on Sunday, at a meeting with members of the Parliament and in the presence of the president-elect, reaffirmed a more resolute emphasis on supporting the incoming government. So, these factors do boost hopes for an atmosphere of national cooperation under the future government.

Do you reckon Pezeshkian's cooperative approach will be reflected in how he crafts his cabinet? Will the cabinet be a crystallization of this cooperative vision?

Undoubtedly, the thoughts of Pezeshkian and this same cooperation ethos should cut across various areas of government. One key area is the cabinet. In the Advisory Councils that former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif set up and chaired to select ministers, we see individuals from different branches with independent, moderate, and even conservative tendencies. So, all public servants should note the president's primary approach is this cooperative one, and they should strive to foster empathy and cooperation in the country and

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I have a suggestion for President-elect Pezeshkian: task each minister, as they start their tenure, with implementing three impactful measures in their respective portfolios within the first six months, to ramp up the government's effectiveness from the get-go.