

Pezeshkian: No choice but to resolve FATF dispute



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the country has no choice but to resolve disputes surrounding the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the 2015 Iran nuclear deal to address Iranians' economic woes and achieve the country's long-term goals. Pezeshkian made the remarks on Monday while fielding Iranian and foreign reporters' questions during his first press conference since taking office late August.

National Desk

Iran has for long been on the FATF's blacklist for what the financial watchdog claims to be Iran's not adhering to transparency and international conventions against money laundering and terrorism financing. Pezeshkian said that he will certainly ask the country's Expediency Council to reactivate the FATF case in a bid to remove sanctions on Iran and improve the people's livelihood.

Ready for negotiations

He also said that Tehran is ready to negotiate with the West and remains committed to all international regulations, but will never bow to pressure. "We are not in conflict with anyone," the Iranian president stated. He said that his administration will negotiate with the West on contentious issues and expand relations with neighboring countries to improve the economy and achieve long-term objectives. However, he added that the United States first needs to prove it is prepared to negotiate in good faith and is committed to its international obligations. The president noted that the Americans have so far "closed all avenues to us." Pezeshkian emphasized that Iran is obligated to the agreements it signed with the US and Europe. "We do not seek atomic weapons, but they (the West) are threatening us and say Iran should not possess any missile." He was referring to the 2015

nuclear agreement that Iran signed with the US, France, the UK, China, Russia and Germany. He said Iran will pursue every possible path leading to the removal of obstacles. At the first step, the president said, Iran will create common views and language with its neighboring countries to establish a region full of peace and tranquility. It is the foreign powers which are hindering the establishment of peace in the region by creating economic, cultural and ethnic conflicts, Pezeshkian said.

UNGA meeting

The Iranian president said his attendance at the 2024 meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York will be "to defend the rights of our people because we do favor peace and not war." Asked about the possibility of his meeting with the US president during his visit to the US to attend the UN General Assembly meeting, Pezeshkian said the US must prove its sincerity in prac-

Iran's military power Referring to Iran's military power, Pezeshkian said Iran



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during his first press conference since taking office on September 16, 2024.
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has never started any war but needs defense power to ensure the safety of its people. "We will not abandon our defense power unless we live in a world or region where everyone is disarmed," he added.

Relations with China

Pezeshkian hailed Iran's relations with China and said Tehran is determined to implement the 25-year partnership agreement with Beijing. "We have very good relations with China and a large part of our relationship is with China, Russia and the neighboring countries." Iran and China signed the landmark 25-year partnership agreement in March 2021 in a bid to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance. Pezeshkian said China took a "major step" in mediating between Iran and Saudi Arabia to resume mutual relations and creating coordination in the region.

Missile transfer to Russia

Pezeshkian also answered a question about accusations leveled by some Western countries against Iran on the delivery of ballistic missiles to Russia in September. He said that his government had not transferred any weapons to Russia since it took office in August.

Yemen missiles

Pezeshkian also dismissed claims that Iran has provided Yemen with hypersonic missiles or the technology to manufacture the weaponry. "It will take one week for a person to go to Yemen. How did the missile go there [to Yemen] and no one saw it? In Iran, we do not have the hypersonic missiles of the type used by Yemen's Ansarullah against Israel."

"We have the missile power but we do not give missiles to Yemen. Before the war [in Gaza], Yemen had acquired the technology to manufacture missiles and was producing them."

Ties with Egypt, Saudi Arabia

Asked about Iran's policy on relations with Egypt, Pezeshkian said his administration will initiate contacts with senior Egyptian officials as soon as possible. "We will welcome relations with the friendly and brotherly country of Egypt." He also reaffirmed the need to settle differences between Iran and Saudi Arabia and said he welcomes any measure which will bring the two Muslim countries closer together. More than 300 journalists from both domestic and international media outlets participated in the Pezeshkian's press conference, who won the run-off presidential vote on July 5 against former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili. He replaced Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May.

Leader: Muslim unity key to countering belligerent plots



● khamenei.ir

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei highlighted the importance of the issue of Muslim unity, describing it as a "Qur'anic principle" and a key to countering ill-wishers' conspiracies against Muslims. He made the remarks during a meeting with Iranian Sunni scholars on Monday, marking the beginning of the Islamic Unity Week which coincides with the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The Leader referred to attempts by ill-wishers to fuel religious discord in the Muslim world, especially in Iran.

The ill-wishers, Ayatollah Khamenei added, are using intellectual, propagandistic and economic means to separate the Shias and the Sunnis in Iran and elsewhere in the Islamic region and make them vilify each other.

The Leader said relying on unity is the way to deal with the conspiracies, noting, "The issue of unity is not a tactic but a Qur'anic principle."

"The issue of the Islamic Ummah's identity is a fundamental issue beyond nationality, and geographical boundaries do not change the truth and identity of the Islamic Ummah."

Pointing to the hostile efforts that are meant to make Muslims indifferent about their Islamic identity, he said, "It is against Islamic teachings that a Muslim is oblivious to the suffering of another Muslim in Gaza or other parts of the world."

Today, the Leader asserted, one of the "definite obligations" is to support the oppressed people of Gaza and Palestine.

Ayatollah Khamenei further expressed regret at some measures which are intentionally or unintentionally seeking to destroy the unity of among the Shias and the Sunnis.

JCPOA implementation should not be confined to one party: Eslami

International Desk

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said the 2015 Iran

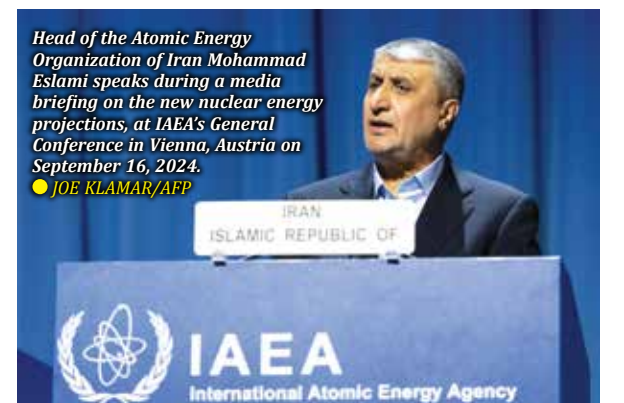
deal, known as the Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), should not be implemented at the expense of only one party.

Addressing the 68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the Austrian capital Vienna on Mon-

day, Mohammad Eslami said that there are "political and psychological pressures" to force Iran to live up to its JCPOA obligations regardless of the lack of commitment by other parties on removal of anti-Iran sanctions.

Eslami said that Tehran's voluntary implementation of nuclear-related measures under the agreement was in exchange for the removal of cruel sanctions against the Iranian nation. He highlighted Iran's full cooperation with the IAEA, pointing out that while nuclear installations in the country make up only three percent of the world's total, more than one-fifth of the world agency's inspections in 2023 took place in Iran. Iran's nuclear chief stressed that Tehran's suspension of its commitments under the JCPOA, including halting the international oversight of non-nuclear production,

followed the illegal US withdrawal from the deal and the failure of the European parties to the JCPOA and the European Union to uphold their obligations. Eslami also pointed to the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists and acts of sabotage and terrorism against Iran by Israel, stating that the regime is spearheading propaganda against Iran's peaceful nuclear program in a bid to divert the world public opinion away from its atrocities. The AEOI chief went on to say that nuclear disarmament is the main priority of the international community, stressing that nuclear-weapon states are required to fulfill their obligations under Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Eslami also underscored the importance of the creation of a Middle East free of nuclear munitions, add-



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ing that Israeli authorities, over the past year, have frequently threatened the Iranian nations and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip with nuclear bombardment while continuing to refuse to join the NPT. Israel's continued refusal to join the NPT and subject its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

he said. Eslami stated that Iran is determined to increase its generation capacity of nuclear electricity to 20,000 megawatts by the year 2040. The IAEA, under its chapter, is therefore obliged to and support all member states and facilitate their access to necessary technology and equipment without any discrimination, the AEOI chief said.

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