

New York, a fresh start for Iran, West



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff Writer

EXCLUSIVE

as the new president of Iran, who won the recent presidential election as a reformist candidate. His main slogan is Interaction within and outside, which has led to the formation of a national unity government with representatives from various political factions. Now, everyone is eagerly waiting to see the outcome of his constructive engagement policy with the world in the realm of foreign policy.

On Sunday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian set off for New York to attend the annual United Nations General Assembly. The president will outline his stances in a speech at the UN on Tuesday. Iran has always capitalized on the opportunity to participate in the annual UN General Assembly. This marks Pezeshkian's first appearance in New York

The annual UN General Assembly, along with the accompanying meetings and potential negotiations on the sidelines, provides an opportunity for the Iranian delegation, led by the president, to showcase a more tangible representation of their foreign policy stances. In fact, other countries are also waiting with bated breath to hear the Iranian president's views on the most key regional and international developments. Domestically, many are pinning their hopes on the Iranian delegation's negotiations with other countries, particularly Western nations, on contentious issues and the nuclear file and sanctions. Therefore, it seems that high expectations are riding on the president's trip to New York. However, the reality is more complex and nuanced than the high expectations surrounding this trip and its outcomes. The most contentious issue between Iran and the West, namely the nuclear file and sanctions, is not in a favorable position. The differences between Iran and the US remain unresolved, and to make matters worse, relations between Iran and Europe have become more strained compared to two or three years ago.

Ukraine war, Iran-Europe's strained relations

A series of developments over the past three years has

complicated the regional and international landscape, casting a shadow over Iran's foreign relations. At the forefront of these developments is the Ukraine war, which has taken a toll on Iran-Europe relations more than any other factor. The previous Iranian government's Look East policy, which led to increased interactions and cooperation with Moscow and Beijing, coincided with Russia's war in Ukraine, sparking European claims of Iranian cooperation with Russia and the alleged supply of military aid to Russia against Ukraine. The latest example of such claims dates back to just a few weeks ago, with European countries alleging that Tehran had sent ballistic missiles to Russia. Iranian officials have dismissed such claims. Both Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi have acknowledged various forms of cooperation between Iran and Russia, while emphasizing that no ballistic missiles have been provided to Russia. In any case, the developments surrounding the Ukraine war have put a chill on Iran-Europe relations, to the point where Europeans, who view Russia as a security threat, also see Tehran as a security threat to the continent due to its close ties with Moscow and alleged military cooperation between the two countries. This situation

suggests that getting back on track with normal relations, restarting dialogue to clear up misunderstandings and ambiguities, and resuming economic cooperation and new agreements will not be a smooth ride. Not to mention that European human rights claims and criticisms against Iran remain unresolved and have only added fuel to the fire.

Gaza war, widening rift between Iran, West

The Gaza war is another significant event at the regional and international level that has had its own distinct impact on Iran. As one of the main supporters of the resistance movement in Palestine and Lebanon, Iran has pulled out all the stops to broker a ceasefire and prevent the war from escalating, but these efforts, as well as other mediation attempts led by the US, Egypt, and Qatar, have yet to bear fruit, leaving the region more unstable and tense than ever. Israel's terrorist actions against Iranian interests and positions, as well as Tehran's responses to Israel's provocations, have brought the two sides to the brink of direct confrontation. Iran has repeatedly stated that it does not want war, but it appears that there is a clear intent within Israel's hawkish cabinet to drag Iran into war and subsequently draw the US into a war with Iran. Nev-

ertheless, despite the widespread outrage and protests in Western countries against Israel's atrocities and war crimes in Gaza, which are no secret to anyone, and despite the fact that public opinion in these countries does not align with their governments' policies of supporting Israel, Western political and military backing for Israel continues unabated. Therefore, the Gaza war has become another development that has further widened the rift between Iran and the West.

Nuclear deal in limbo

The nuclear file, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the continuation of sanctions against Iran are another point of contention between Iran and Western countries that has remained unresolved over the past three years, with the situation becoming increasingly complicated. In response to the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal and the Europeans' failure to fulfill their commitments

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, at the head of a high-ranking delegation, arrived in New York, on September 23, 2024, to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly. president.ir

