

under the agreement, as well as in reaction to the Western parties' unconstructive actions, such as the continued imposition of sanctions and the issuance of political resolutions at the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors, Iran has reneged on some of its JCPOA commitments and ramped up its nuclear activities. The accusations against Iran, as well as the claims made by the West and the IAEA, continue, and therefore, no clear horizon is in sight on this issue, especially with the US presidential election on the horizon. It is not expected that any positive developments will occur on the nuclear file and sanctions relief until the next US administration takes office, which will take several months.

Painting realistic picture of Iranian government

The developments mentioned earlier are indicative of the fact that improving relations between Iran and the West is not a smooth ride, or at least, it's a time-consuming process. Therefore, expecting a breakthrough in a few sideline-talks during the UN General Assembly is not a realistic expectation. However, one achievement that can be anticipated from the Iranian delegation's trip to New York is to paint a realistic picture of the new government in Iran. The president's announcement of his stances from the UN podium will undoubtedly help to shed light on the new political landscape in Iran. The fact that the new government in Iran is seeking constructive engagement with the world and striving to pursue a balanced foreign policy, meaning that cooperation and friendship with one power bloc or country does not imply hostility and non-cooperation with another, will become clearer. The Iranian delegation's diplomatic negotiations with other delegations in New York will also help to flesh out this realistic picture of Iran. In a recent press conference, the president of Iran emphasized that Iran supports no war and has never initiated a war in the past 100 years. Pezeshkian once again underscored his government's willingness to engage with the world. Therefore, it is expected that the president's announcement of his stances in New York will mark the beginning of a new chapter in Iran's relations with the world. Just as the historic speech of former Iranian president Mohammad Khatami in 1998, who introduced the idea of a "Dialogue of Civilizations," showcased a peaceful image of the Islamic Republic of Iran. New York can be the starting point of a new path for Iran and the West. The talks held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly can provide a suitable opportunity for both sides to express their views, concerns, and expectations of each other. The encouraging point is that both sides are well aware that escalating tensions is not in anyone's interest, and that mutual interests can only be secured through dialogue and engagement. The experiences of the past may lay the groundwork for new understandings, although reaching these understandings may take time.

Iran's power, concerns on display at UNGA



By Ramin Mehmanparast
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OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The stances taken by Pezeshkian during the presidential election and the remarks made by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi indicate that Iran is pursuing a balanced foreign policy, prioritizing the development of relations with various countries, particularly neighboring ones. Iran also aims to reduce conflicts and ease tensions and crises with different countries to ensure its foreign policy follows a more regular course, alleviating pressure and yielding positive economic outcomes. Pezeshkian's visit to New York presents a great opportunity to address regional issues, particularly the Gaza crisis, tensions, wars, and atrocities committed by the Zionist regime of Israel. Strengthening ties with neighboring countries, moving toward collective cooperation to create a secure and

Whenever new governments take the reins in any country, their foreign policy stances can be quite captivating for others, who scrutinize them with great interest. In our country, with Masoud Pezeshkian at the helm as the new president, high-ranking officials from various countries are undoubtedly eager to hear his government's views and understand the direction Iran's foreign policy will take. The General Assembly of the United Nations is one of the best opportunities to elucidate Iran's current foreign policy status, long-term and medium-term plans, and objectives.

stable region, and deepening economic cooperation can be the outcomes of this trip. Alongside these issues, Iran's relations with powerful countries will be on the agenda. Global powers like Russia and China will be present at the UNGA, and Iran should emphasize the frameworks of its foreign relations, ensuring mutual benefits and bilateral interests with these countries. Iran also has the opportunity to utilize vast capacities to share its views and sensitivities toward regional developments, which the major powers, including Russia and China, should acknowledge. The approach to managing relations with Western countries, particularly in the context of Europe, remains to be defined. Serious negotiations with powerful countries like Russia are necessary to secure long-term mutual interests,

while striving for harmonious coordination and dispelling misunderstandings. Constructive dialogue with Western countries, especially European ones, should be on the agenda. In such talks, Iran should pursue numerous common interests that can benefit both parties, reducing conflicts that European countries use as leverage against Iran's national interests. It must be made clear to European countries that Iran is a powerful nation, and a powerful Iran in the region can be much more effective in a constructive cooperation with Western countries to serve the interests of both sides. A constructive and positive approach, focused on cooperation, should replace destructive ones. The UNGA meeting is an opportunity for Western countries to tap into Iran's vast capacities to

create regional stability and security and benefit from Iran's significant economic potential. During this trip, the Iranian delegation is expected to defend the country's rights and interests. The unfair and cruel sanctions must be lifted as Iran believes its nuclear work is solely for peaceful purposes. Western countries should adopt a realistic approach, recognizing Iran as a regional power, and engage with it cooperatively. To lift sanctions, constructive measures should be taken. The upcoming UNGA meeting is a great opportunity to expound upon Iran's foreign policy stances, deepen extensive cooperation with friendly countries, reduce conflicts, and ease tensions. To create a more peaceful atmosphere in Iran and stimulate economic growth, these obstacles must be removed.

Talks with Europe prelude to talks with US



By Kioomars Ashtarian
Political Analyst

OPINION

Some diplomatic methods have not yielded results, so it is time to try a different approach. Diplomacy is not just about having a number of ambassadors, diplomats, and embassy staff; nor is it solely about negotiating with military power as leverage. Less powerful countries cannot resolve their major international problems solely through military power. In this regard, one solution for Iran's foreign policy is to organize its negotiations with the US, centered on Europe, in the form of a "comprehensive diplomacy", and for bilateral negotiations between Iran and the US to begin, with France and/or Germany in center. This approach can have positive consequences. Firstly, it provides a middle ground for Iran's policy of not negotiating directly with the US. The passive mediation of regional countries, such as Oman or Iraq, lacks the diplomatic capacity to develop solutions. Secondly, even if negotiations in Europe take a long time, the "securitization" of the Islamic Republic's image in a major global diplomatic center will decrease. In the public eye, the propaganda that Iran is not a "normal" country will be largely neutralized. Moreover, on the sidelines of these negotiations, the possibility of "playing without the ball" for

While Israel is trying to drag Iran into an all-out war, Iran has two paths to take simultaneously. Firstly, it should develop its military technology, as no country in Iran's position can afford to ignore the necessity of power, regardless of the analysis of international relations. Secondly, since power alone is not enough, Iran should embark on "extensive diplomacy" with the world.

the three countries - Iran, France, and Germany - will increase. In other words, the grounds for non-American diplomacy, independent of the nuclear issue, will expand for developing trilateral relations. Gradual steps, de-securitization of the country's image, and a positive balance of international economics are among the main strategies of diplomacy. The reality is that we have many untrodden paths and sometimes, under the influence of rogue groups, we have taken the wrong path. Diplomacy is about opening up paths by creating opportunities. On the other hand, diplomacy starts from within; that is, the forces active in domestic politics and the type of interaction you have with your people and national human resources is the beginning of your foreign policy and diplomacy. This is the path that the 14th government has taken. Diplomacy is primarily a national unity from within and a gradual process of national empowerment that begins at the lowest levels of internal and international communication and continues at the highest levels. Now, we can think about the new opportunities that have arisen. In contrast, however, some individuals within the country, rely-



A staff member removes an Iranian flag from the stage after a group picture with foreign ministers and representatives of the United States, Iran, China, Russia, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and the European Union during Iran nuclear talks in Vienna on July 14, 2015.
● CARLOS BARRIA/AFP

ing on media power, have gone beyond the necessary epic storytelling for any country and have appeared as pressure groups, putting pressure on senior officials. If you take a look at their statements on social media, you'll see a wave of self-humiliation due to not entering an all-out war with Israel. It's as if they see success only in short-term tactics, not in long-term strategies. Like enthusiastic football fans, they expect to win all the time and can't tolerate even one defeat.

Tactical defeat is catastrophic for them, and they quickly lose their morale. Similarly, strategic failure leads to psychological depression and theoretical crisis. The world of politics is a world of great victories and defeats. What's important is not to become arrogant in victory or desperate in defeat. What's important is not to lose your genuine beliefs in defeat and not to collapse from within.

The article first appeared in Sharq newspaper.

Strengthening ties with neighboring countries, moving toward collective cooperation to create a secure and stable region, and deepening economic cooperation can be the outcomes of Pezeshkian's New York trip.

The experiences of the past may lay the groundwork for new understandings, although reaching these understandings may take time.