

Araghchi calls for reduction in costs of Iran-US differences

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has called for the implementation of relevant management strategies to reduce the cost of Iran's standing differences with the United States. "We have to implement [relevant] management [strategies] so that the cost of Iran's differences with the United States [can] be reduced," the top diplomat said on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Press TV reported. He said channels of communication between the two

countries are constantly there. The official, however, noted that some of the Islamic Republic's differences with the US were "very substantive and foundational." "Those differences may not be solvable, but we have to adopt [relevant] management [courses of action] so that their costs and [standing] tensions [can] be reduced." Araghchi made the comments a day after warning Washington against resumption of its so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran. The first version of the

American policy was met with "Maximum Resistance" from Tehran, resulting in Washington's "Maximum Defeat," he wrote in a post on X. "Attempting 'Maximum Pressure 2.0' will only result in 'Maximum Defeat 2.0'. Better idea: try 'Maximum Wisdom'—for the benefit of all," he wrote. The US adopted the policy under former president Donald Trump, unilaterally leaving a historic and multi-party nuclear agreement with Iran, and resuming the illegal sanctions that the deal had lifted.

The sanctions, preserved under the administration of US President Joe Biden, have restricted the financial channels necessary to pay for basic goods and medicine, undermining supply chains by limiting the number of suppliers willing to facilitate sales of humanitarian goods to the Islamic Republic. Trump, who has been re-elected the US president, now seeks to ramp up the economic measures even further, despite warnings and pieces of advice issued by Iran against fueling the tensions between the countries.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks to reporters after a cabinet meeting in Tehran on November 13, 2024. president.ir

Pezeshkian: Gov't plan to remove Internet curbs will enhance online governance

National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said his government's plan to remove Internet restrictions does not involve the abandonment of the virtual space but rather it aims to fortify online governance. "Scientific assessments and analyses of the social impact of [Internet] filtering have shown that none of the objectives of this plan has been achieved, and instead, it has created additional drawbacks. It's astonishing that we still insist on continuing this futile and counterproductive trend," Pezeshkian said as he addressed a cabinet meeting on Wednesday. Iranians often bypass the government-imposed ban on the Internet by utilizing Virtual Private Network (VPN) software applications, which make their computer appear to be located in another country. The Internet filtering, which is being monitored by the Internet Filtering Committee, led by the prosecutor general, restricts users from accessing websites and social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, and YouTube, due to their offensive and

criminal content. During the session, Pezeshkian said that the government's plan to lift filtering does not mean giving free rein to the virtual space, but will instead lead to the development and reinforcement of online governance, enabling people to make optimal use of it. "The government's focus is on developing educational content, particularly for teenagers and young adults, as well as increasing government services on social media platforms, which will result in the optimal utilization of the Internet," the president said. He stressed that the government is seeking a common ground with other governing bodies on the issue of lifting filtering, and underscored the need to expedite the implementation of the resolution passed by the Supreme Council of Cyberspace, and to set up a special task force to examine the various aspects of the issue, address concerns, and present the findings to the next session of the council for a final decision. Pezeshkian instructed the country's Supreme Council of Cyberspace on



Tuesday to form a working group to review the lifting of Internet restrictions, citing public dissatisfaction as a key factor in the decision. "Continuing Internet filtering, given the widespread dissatisfaction it has caused, is unacceptable," he said, warning, "Decisions that do not satisfy the public could backfire, eroding social capital and posing security challenges." The president highlighted that governance should not be based solely on assumptions without considering public satisfaction and stressed the importance of understanding how society perceives the decisions made for their lives. Meanwhile, the government spokesperson emphasized that efforts to

lift Internet restrictions and bring about a more regulated online environment are underway, stating that, "No mafia can stand up to the unity of the Iranian people." Speaking on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting, Fatemeh Mohajerani said, "The Ministry of Telecommunications presented a report on the special task force for digital economy, which was approved." She added that the government's plan to present to the Supreme Council of Cyberspace was discussed, but ultimately, a task force was assigned to review it.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses a cabinet meeting on November 13, 2024. president.ir

Iran, IAEA seek fresh start as Grossi arrives in Tehran

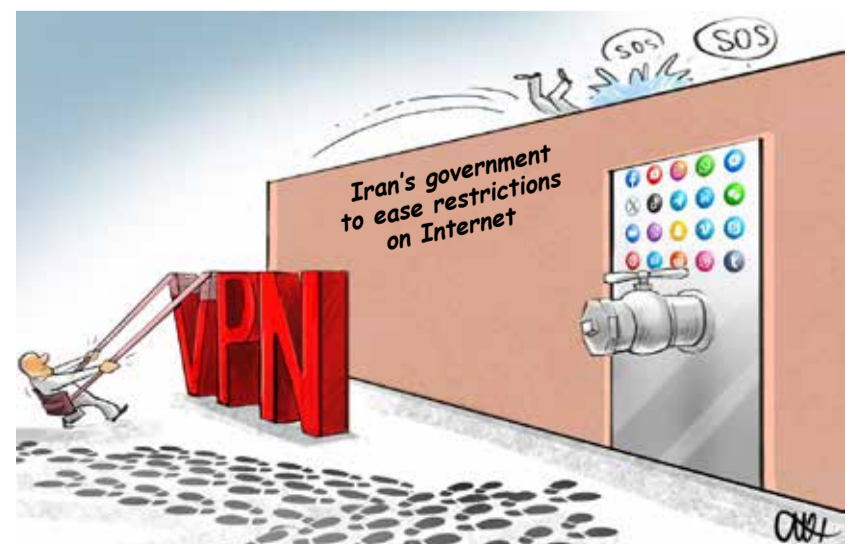
International Desk

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi arrived in Tehran on Wednesday for crucial talks on Iran's nuclear program, with both sides expressing hope that a new path to be opened up for cooperation. Ahead of the IAEA chief's two-day visit to Iran on Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described Grossi's tone in his conversations with Iranian officials in Vienna as "upbeat", expressing hope that, "With this positive attitude, we can pave the way for a new chapter in cooperation between Iran and the agency," ISNA reported. Meanwhile, ahead of his trip to Iran, Grossi said in an interview with CNN that the purpose of his visit to Iran, which certainly won't be the last one, is important to find diplomatic solutions to remaining issues. Referring to the future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Grossi said that it was not a secret issue and since the new Iranian government assumed office, Tehran has been looking for solutions in this regard. While the IAEA is allowed to carry out inspections in Iran, Grossi stressed the need for "more visibility" into Iran's nuclear program, given its scale and objectives. "They have a lot of nuclear materials that could be used eventually to make a nuclear weapon," the IAEA chief told CNN on Tuesday, adding, "They do not have a nuclear weapon at this point." Grossi also told AFP that, "The margins for maneuver are beginning to shrink," adding that, "It is imperative to find ways to reach diplomatic solutions." On Wednesday, the Iranian foreign minister asserted that the Islamic Republic



continued its constructive cooperation with the United Nations nuclear body. Araghchi hoped that Iranian officials would be able to reach some agreements with the agency during an upcoming visit to the country by Grossi. Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs said in an X post on Monday that the trip is in line with the joint statement issued during Grossi's visit to Tehran on March 4, 2023. In their joint statement, Tehran and the UN nuclear watchdog recognized that bilateral positive engagement can pave the way for wider agreements among state parties. They also agreed that bilateral interactions will be carried out in a spirit of collaboration, and in full conformity with the competencies of the IAEA and the rights and obligations of Iran based on the comprehensive safeguards agreement. The joint statement came after the IAEA leveled Israeli-influenced accusations against Iran's peaceful nuclear activities. In 2015, Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with six world powers. However, Washington's unilateral withdrawal in 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo. In 2019, Iran started to roll back the limits it had accepted under the JCPOA.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



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Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei (2nd L) pays a visit to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) on November 13, 2024, where he met with Hossein Jaber Ansari (1st L), the agency's chief, and subsequently toured various departments of the media organization. ASGHAR KHAMSEH/IRNA

