

# Pezeshkian: New bonds needed to advance D-8 shared interests



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) speaks at a meeting to review the situation in Gaza and Lebanon on the sidelines of the D-8 Developing summit in Cairo, Egypt, on December 19, 2024. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Thursday urged the group of D-8 countries to "forge new bonds" to foster development and advance shared interests during a summit in the Egyptian capital Cairo.

"The importance of maintaining friendships and forging new bonds through multilateral cooperation among Islamic countries, based on development and the

pursuit of shared interests, is felt more than ever," Pezeshkian told the gathering of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, also known as the Developing-8. According to IRNA, Pezeshkian also called on D-8 member states to move multilateralism and set up what he called "smart economic and trade networks."

He further said that Iran was ready to undertake joint actions

within the framework of the D-8 to collectively support young entrepreneurs.

The Iranian president suggested that the D-8 Technology Transfer Network, with its secretariat located at Pardis Technology Park in Tehran, could be key in advancing joint youth-related initiatives.

Pezeshkian, however, expressed concern that member states still had a long way to go to reach the

D-8's 2030 vision.

He also announced that the next meeting of the "D-8 Permanent Committee on Communications and Information Technology" would soon be hosted by Iran and that Tehran could begin working on this directive in collaboration with the member states.

The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation is a group for developing cooperation among Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

Leading a high-profile delegation, President Pezeshkian flew to Cairo on Wednesday to take part in the D-8 summit. It was the first visit by an Iranian president to Egypt in 11 years.

**Stopping Israeli aggression**

Later in the day, Pezeshkian addressed a meeting on the situation in the Gaza Strip on the sidelines of the D-8 summit where he said the top priority for the West Asian countries must be to stop the Israeli aggression in Gaza and attacks on Lebanon and Syria.

"Today, we have gathered under circumstances where the West Asia region is experiencing a sensitive, complex, and unstable

situation," he said, according to Press TV.

Pezeshkian stressed that acts of aggression by the occupying regime in the past year have not only deprived the Palestinian people of their rights, such as the right to independence, self-determination, security, welfare, and education, but today it has also taken away their right to life, food and water, and shelter.

The Iranian president also stressed that there must be no delay whatsoever in confronting such crimes and widespread acts of aggression, urging that actions in this regard must be prioritized through cooperation and coordination.

"The first step to stop these acts of aggression is to pressure this regime for a cease-fire in Gaza and to halt its attacks on Lebanon and Syria. This issue must be the most important human and ethical priority for the countries of the region and members of the D-8 organization," Pezeshkian emphasized.

"I would like to emphasize that the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes and supports any Palestinian-Palestinian agreement that is endorsed by the Palestinian peo-

ple and has the consensus of all Palestinian groups. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination must be respected, and their intellectual and political maturity in determining their own future and destiny must be honored," Pezeshkian added.

He called on the D-8 organization to create a support program for facilitating Palestine's development and reconstruction, establishing a contact group to collaborate with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in halting the war on Gaza and providing humanitarian aid, and setting up a fund for rebuilding Gaza and Lebanon.

Pezeshkian also urged the organization to support the recognition of Israel as an apartheid entity and work to revive UN Resolution 3379, while forming a joint legal committee to support Palestine in international legal actions, including in prosecuting Israeli officials for the deaths of over 17,000 Palestinian children.

Regarding Israel's devastating attacks against Syria's infrastructure, particularly its military, he stressed that Iran strongly condemns the regime's attacks on the Arab country's infrastructure, property, and assets.

## During bilateral meetings on sidelines of D-8 summit

### Tehran, Cairo discuss restoration of ties after four decades

#### International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian and his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, expressed their hope that the recent positive steps taken to restore ties between the two countries will continue until full bilateral relations are established.

The two presidents met on Thursday on the sidelines of the 11th summit of the leaders of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, according to Press TV.

Pezeshkian emphasized the necessity of promoting economic cooperation, and the continued talks between Tehran and Cairo, which have not had political ties for more than four decades. For his part, Sisi described the latest Israeli aggression on Syria as unprecedented, expressing his country's support for the formation of an inclusive government in Syria.

Mehdi Sanaei, a senior political aide to Pezeshkian, had noted earlier that "good dialogue" was held between

the two countries' presidents, adding that "political talks and appropriate actions have started between the two countries."

#### Stressing Syria's integrity to Erdogan

Pezeshkian, in his meeting with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday, underscored the need to safeguard Syria's territorial integrity amid recent developments in the Arab country.

"Any changes in Syria must respect its territorial integrity, and even the slightest violation of its sovereignty is completely unacceptable," Pezeshkian said, according to ISNA.

Pezeshkian also called for an immediate halt to Israeli aggression in the region. He urged Islamic nations to fulfill their responsibility in countering Israeli actions, stating, "If there is unity and solidarity among the Islamic community, the regime will not dare to commit such atrocities."

"We are waiting for the implementa-



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah el-Sisi meet on the sidelines of the D-8 summit in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, on December 19, 2024. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

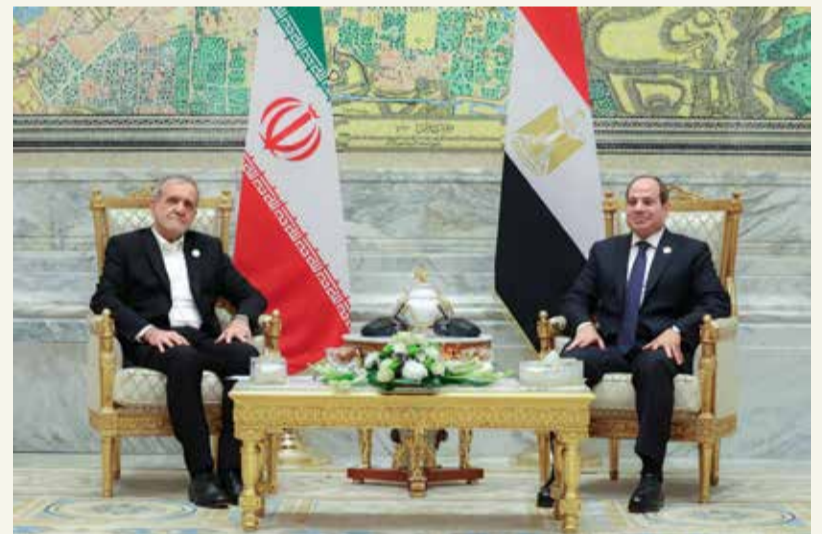
tion of agreements and the realization of trade targets set between Iran and Turkey," Pezeshkian added.

For his part, Erdogan said, "Preserving Syria's territorial integrity is crucial for Turkey, and we hope joint efforts will soon restore peace and security in Syria."

He described enhancing Iran-Turkey cooperation as vital for regional stability and expressed hope that the High Council for Strategic Cooperation meeting would be held next year.

#### Calling for unified currency among Muslim nations

In a separate meeting in Cairo on the same day, Pezeshkian held talks with Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad



#### Shehbaz Sharif.

The Pakistani premier expressed his support for Pezeshkian's idea of creating a unified currency and utilizing the capacities of shared markets among Muslim nations.

Pezeshkian and Sharif also addressed issues concerning delays faced by Iranian trucks at the Pakistan border. Sharif assured his Iranian counterpart that the problem would be resolved promptly, according to Tasnim.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Tehran rejects baseless claims by UK, Australia against Iran

Iran's Foreign Ministry dismissed recent claims by the UK and Australia as "baseless, unrealistic, and irrelevant" and called for a reconsideration of policies that interfere in regional affairs.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei criticized the UK and Australia for their "unwavering support" of Israel's criminal actions in the occupied Palestinian territories and West Asia, according to Tasnim.

He condemned their stance against Iran's defensive operations in response to Israel's attack on its embassy in Damascus, emphasizing that Iran's operations — known as "True Promise 1" and "True Promise 2" — were in full compliance with international law and the UN Charter's right to self-defense.

Addressing the UK and Australia's claims of Iran's ballistic missile export

to Russia, Baghaei called the accusations part of US and UK efforts to "securitize international relations" and "globalize" the Ukraine conflict.

He noted that even Ukraine's president had denied such claims.

The spokesperson further blamed the root of instability in West Asia on Israel's "occupation and expansionism," sustained with support from the US, UK, Australia and some other Western nations.

Baghaei also criticized the UK and Australia for "systematic human rights violations" in their treatment of asylum seekers in prisons and detention facilities, rebuking them for hypocrisy.

The Foreign Ministry official also slammed Australia's activities and the continuance of colonial-era policies against Indigenous Australians, urg-



ing both countries to abandon their "instrumental and hypocritical" approaches to human rights.

Referring to comments by the UK Foreign Secretary that genocide in Palestine requires "millions" of deaths, Baghaei called the UK's policy of "genocide denial" in Gaza shameful and devoid of moral credibility to lecture on human rights.