

# Iran warns of non-compliance with nuclear disarmament obligations

'Israel should be forced to join NPT'

## International Desk

Iran warned that non-compliance with legally binding obligations related to nuclear disarmament by the world's countries would lead to weakening the disarmament and arms control convention, stressing that the United Nations should put the issue high on its agenda.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in an address to the High-Level Segment of the UN Conference on Disarmament in the Swiss city of Geneva on Monday, expressed concern about the serious threat of nuclear weapons and its catastrophic human and environmental consequences, calling for maintaining the issue of nuclear disarmament as the top priority of the UN and the international community.

The Iranian minister pointed to the erosion of key nuclear arms control agreements, stressing the necessity of the conclusion

of a comprehensive convention on nuclear arms.

He warned against widespread non-compliance with legally binding obligations related to nuclear disarmament, particularly under Article VI of the NPT. "Regrettably, there is no promising prospect for change in the foreseeable future. The international community rightfully expects the nuclear-weapon states to be held accountable for their obligations," he said.

"Despite the increasing likelihood of a nuclear war - driven mainly by modernization efforts and an escalating nuclear arms race - nuclear-weapon states, in particular the United States, are significantly increasing their budgets for nuclear weapons programs." Simultaneously, he added, countries like Britain are expanding their nuclear stockpiles and lowering the threshold for possible nuclear weapon use.

The Iranian foreign minister said the world is currently wit-

nessing increasing resort to the use or threat of force, military intervention, unilateral coercive measures, and political pressure, in disregard to the longstanding commitments to disarmament and arms control. "This is an alarming trend that must be reversed immediately," he said.

"The only guaranteed safeguard against their use or threat lies in their complete and verifiable elimination, accompanied by legally binding assurances of non-production, avoidance of nuclear sharing, as well as non-formation of nuclear military alliances," Araghchi stated. The Iranian foreign minister also said the international community must push the Israeli regime to join the NPT and put all its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards.

"The international community must hold this regime accountable, and demand that it renounce the possession of nucle-

ar weapons, accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon party, and subject all its nuclear facilities and activities to the comprehensive IAEA Safeguards," he said.

He said the weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons possessed by the Israeli regime, continue to pose a grave threat to regional and global peace and security.

The minister emphasized that the Israeli regime is hindering the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in West Asia and continues to threaten others with nuclear annihilation.

Israel is estimated to possess 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal, making it the sole possessor of non-conventional arms in West Asia.

It has refused to either allow inspections of its nuclear facilities or sign the NPT.

Araghchi cited the evil suggestion of using nuclear weapons against the people of Palestine



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses a UN Conference on Disarmament in the Swiss city of Geneva on February 24, 2025.  
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in the Gaza Strip as a vivid example of the Israeli regime's outlawed action.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres also addressed the conference.

He said that security arrangements that have supported global peace for decades are unravelling.

"The bilateral and regional security arrangements that underwrote global peace and stability for decades are unravelling before our eyes," Guterres said.

"Trust is sinking, while uncertainty, insecurity, impunity and military spending are all rising," Guterres added.

## Tehran summons Polish envoy over 'baseless' remarks



## International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Monday summoned the Polish envoy to Tehran to protest the "biased and baseless" remarks made by the European country's top diplomat against the Islamic Republic.

The summon came days after Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski criticized Iran and Russia, as reported by The Wall Street Journal, saying the allies had formed "an axis of aggression." Sikorski claimed that Iran was "sending death and destruction in all directions," and urged a coordinated international response to counter its "threat."

The remarks were made after the top diplomat reportedly helped procure what he claimed was a downed Iranian

Shahed drone that was displayed at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, according to the WSJ. Ukraine and its Western allies have repeatedly accused Tehran of supplying Moscow with drones and ballistic missiles during Russia's war against Ukraine, now in its third year.

Iran has consistently denied allegations, stating that it has not sided with any parties in the conflict. Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations has also stressed that there is "no legal prohibition" on the sale of the country's Shahed drone to other countries.

"The Shahed drone is among the world's most advanced unmanned aerial vehicles, possessing exceptional reconnaissance, surveillance, and operational capabilities while maintaining an extremely cost-effective price," the mission said in a post on X on Friday.

"There is no legal prohibition on its sale. Any country that commits to refraining from using it in acts of aggression against another state is eligible to apply for its purchase," it emphasized.

The European Union and the United States have imposed multiple rounds of sanctions on both Russia and Iran over their alleged military activities.

## Trump admin targets Iran's oil with new sanctions

## International Desk

The United States on Monday announced sanctions against more than 30 Iran-linked people and vessels, including the head of the national oil company, for brokering the sale and shipment of Iranian oil.

"Iran continues to rely on a shadowy network of vessels, shippers, and brokers to facilitate its oil sales and fund its destabilizing activities," US Treasury Scott Bessent claimed in a statement announcing the designations, AFP reported.

"The United States will use all our available tools to target all aspects of Iran's oil supply chain, and anyone who deals in Iranian oil exposes themselves to significant sanctions risk," he added.

Among those targeted Monday was Hamid Bovard, Iran's deputy petroleum minister, and the chief executive officer of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The United States previously designated the NIOC for alleged providing support to the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Others hit Monday include oil brokers based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Hong Kong, and tanker operators and managers in India and China, the Treasury Department said.

It accused the vessels sanctioned of helping ship "tens of millions of barrels of crude oil valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars."

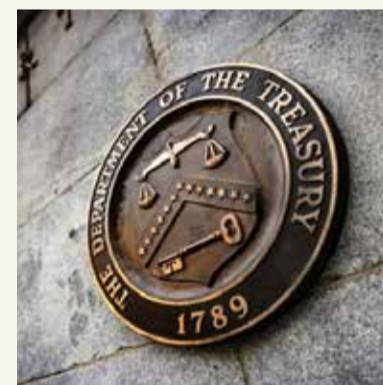
The State Department also announced sanctions against an additional 16 companies Monday "for their involvement in the sale, purchase, and transportation of Iranian petroleum," the Treasury Department said.

New sanctions are the second set of sanctions on Iran after the US President Donald Trump revived his so-called maximum pressure strategy against Iran.

On February 6, the US State Department announced its first set of sanctions against Iran's crude oil export to China.

According to the Treasury Department, entities and individuals in China, India and the UAE were all sanctioned.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Aragh-



chi in an address to a meeting of the UN human rights in Geneva on Monday deplored the illegal sanctions imposed on Iran, saying that, "In recent decades, Iran has faced various challenges, including terrorism and illegal sanctions."

Iran's top diplomat added, "Some countries are preventing the targeted countries from accessing medicine and other essential items by imposing sanctions on some other countries. We demand the removal of all unilateral sanctions. These sanctions violate the rights of Iranians."

## Iran-Russia agreement ...

Now that the world is going through the abnormal condition that Trump has created for everybody, the two points of view seem to converge on the following notion: Trump is not trustworthy anymore. This convergence is not exclusive to Iran, though, since the whole world is conceiving him as a global problem instead of a solution. It seems that the second term of Donald Trump as the US president has turned out to be problematic for the whole world, exemplified by his role in the Russia-Ukraine war, EU-Russia and China-Taiwan tensions, and North Korea's threats against South Korea and Japan.

So, in Iran's case too, Trump is not part of the solution, rather he is the core of the problem. Within Iran, the conservative wing, which was very joyful about an agreement between Iran and Russia,

believes that the inevitable attack of Israel as a proxy force of America in the region on Iran has become irresponsible after the thaw in US-Russia ties; thus, that agreement can act as a deterrent power for Iran. In this scenario, Israel and America will avoid battling Russia due to the agreement's clauses. Trump will never attack Iran directly because of its heavy military and economic costs. On the other hand, reformists opine that Iran must never get closer to the East without considering the current world order which is obeyed by all powers and organizations.

In any case, we are in a new condition that may have not been predictable beforehand. The main issue is the deep intimacy between Trump and Putin. Of course, experts know that Trump is not intimate with anybody in the world, but considering America's issues with the

EU and China, he tries to get closer and closer to Russia, even at the cost of sacrificing Ukraine and the EU altogether.

## What about Iran?

Our main enemy in the region, Israel, is in a very bad condition as it has sunk to new depths of moral and humanitarian depravity. But our allies are not as strong as they were two years ago, and Iran's economic condition is not good either. The regional position of our rivals, like Saudi Arabia and Turkey, improved due to how things worked out. We need to cooperate with the world, but our security is being threatened by Israel, which has the support of the US. Russia, as a global power, is in a bad economic and, more importantly, political condition. Now, it is time to pose the main question: What will Russia do about the deal it made with Iran? The answer to

this question lies in the clauses of the agreement: There's not much Moscow can do other than to commit to them.

Then there is Trump's trader personality, which is the dangerous and worrying part of the equation. He is unpredictable and uncertain, and this trait of him could affect the relationship between Russia and America. There's a speculation that Putin aims to restore the USSR territory and governance, and Trump is just seeking to make the American economy first in the world. In this regard, there is no conflict between them apparently. But Iran and its dominant ideology in international affairs could become problematic for both sides.

The main point is that Trump acts contrary to global public order, and even then, he will not be able to do all that he wants to do. His method, which is dubbed "Peace Through Strength," will

not be applicable to every situation and problem. Meanwhile, his most dangerous mistake is the reinforcement of Russia to weaken the EU, China, and Iran. So, we arrive at the paradoxical part of the equation: Iran is an enemy of America but also a friend of America's new friend, Russia. From here onwards, the future will rely on Russia's actions. However, our agreement with Russia will balance the relations and reduce the threats to Iran.

It seems that Iran's best bet is to not rely on global powers, play its own game, and try to create a new regional order in the Middle East. Our optimal way of navigating through Trump's second term is to expand bilateral cooperation with all our neighbors. The cornerstone of this policy could be based on Trumophobia; a fear that will slowly engulf the entire world.