

# Pezeshkian accentuates blue economy as key to tackle water stress

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian underscored sea-oriented development as “the solution to steer the country clear of crises that like water scarcity could trigger in our major cities.” During a meeting on maritime-based development on Monday, Pezeshkian emphasized that all major Iranian cities, particularly Tehran, face numerous environmental challenges, especially regarding water supply, saying, “This initiative must be treated with utmost seriousness by all relevant agencies and prioritized in their agendas.” Focused on reviewing the statute of the Maritime-Oriented Development Organization and the Makoran Region, the meeting was also attended by ministers and relevant officials. Addressing the meeting, Ali Abdolalizadeh, the president’s representative for coordinating the implementation of the government’s sea-based development policies outlined key revisions to the draft statute. These



changes included redefining the government’s role from direct implementation to oversight, prioritizing private sector and public participation over state-led initiatives, and emphasizing the Makoran region’s development. “Every effort in sea-focused development, particularly in the Makoran region, including drafting the organization’s statute must align with a comprehensive masterplan and defined macro-objectives for Iran’s northern and southern coasts. Without such a roadmap, our actions risk diverging from core goals or falling short of fully meeting our targets, necessitating future revisions,” the president stressed. Pezeshkian further noted that the statute must clearly delineate the roles of government entities alongside civil, cooperative, and private sectors. Criticizing delays in implementing prior resolutions to identify

and appoint experienced international consultants for the Makoran-focused masterplan, the president asserted, “The Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, alongside other responsible entities, must swiftly select and engage the most capable international experts to prepare this critical masterplan.” Reiterating his concerns, Pezeshkian warned, “Our major cities, especially Tehran, grapple with severe environmental issues,

particularly water shortages. Maritime-oriented development is the nation’s lifeline to avert or mitigate crises like those posed by water scarcity. All relevant institutions must prioritize this

program without delay.” Reflecting on past shortcomings, the president remarked, “Previous development efforts lacked a coherent, holistic vision. They overlooked Iran’s potential for international cooperation, especially along the southern coasts. To put it bluntly, we’ve merely been surviving, neglecting genuine national progress.” Since the current administration took office, “We have advanced numerous infrastructure projects — completing transit corridors, addressing energy and water shortages, expanding rail and road networks. However, these are individual links that must ultimately interconnect to maximize impact. The unifying thread is shifting the nation’s development focus to the southern coasts, particularly Makoran.” Monday’s meeting concluded with a directive for the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, in coordination with the Foreign Ministry, to expedite the selection and appointment of international consultants for the maritime-oriented development masterplan.

آی نژاد ن. ۴۰۰۰ نفر از نمایندگان کشورهای ۱۱۰ کشور در تهران حضور خواهند داشت. این رویداد در ۲۷ تا ۲۹ اردیبهشت برگزار می‌شود. همچنین نشست همکاری‌های ایران-آفریقا نیز در همین روزها برگزار خواهد شد. **پژشکیان** بر این تأکید دارد که توسعه دریامحور باید به عنوان راهکار اصلی برای مقابله با بحران‌هایی مانند کمبود آب در شهرهای بزرگ کشور در نظر گرفته شود.

## Iran Expo, Africa Summit to host reps from 110 countries: *TPO*

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The Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO) described this year’s Iran Expo and the Iran-Africa Summit as the country’s largest commercial and political events of the year, stating, “These two events will host thousands of economic actors and dozens of ministers from various countries worldwide; their goal is to create a leap in Iran’s commercial and international relations.” On Monday, ahead of two major events, a press conference took place at the Tehran International Exhibition Center, attended by the government spokesperson. Iran Expo 2025 (the 7th Exhibition of Iran’s Export Capabilities) and the 3rd Iran-Africa Cooperation Summit will be held concurrently next week with a one-day interval, ISNA reported. Mohammad Ali Dehqan Dehnavi emphasized the high importance of these events in Iran’s economic and political spheres, noting, “These events incorporate diverse dimensions, including commercial and economic sectors, while fostering alignment between political officials and economic actors to achieve valuable outcomes.” “Through Iran Expo, we will host thousands of foreign traders from around the world. So far, approximately 4,000 for-



foreign applicants from 110 nations have registered for the exhibition, including 41 from Asia, 21 from Europe, 39 from Africa, 8 from the Americas, and 1 from Oceania,” the TPO head added. The deputy minister of industry, mine, and trade highlighted the significant increase in participating countries compared to last year’s 95 countries, noting, “This unprecedented demand has strained the capacity of Tehran’s 4- and 5-star hotels, with only around 2,500 guests currently able to be accommodated. For this reason, a screening of applicants is underway to establish the most effective and productive relations with Iran.” Regarding the Iran-Africa summit, he stated, “Politically, this summit is one of the largest annual events in the country.

We will host dozens of ministers from African nations, with numerous meetings scheduled between them and their Iranian counterparts, as well as private-sector representatives. It is anticipated that 30 to 40 foreign ministers will attend in Tehran. So far, 1,000 companies have registered across 800 booths, but regrettably, due to space limitations, we cannot accommodate an additional 400 applicant companies.” Expressing hope that these events — under the country’s promising political climate — will pave the way for positive economic transformations, he said, “We view these events as the start of a movement that must continue until next year’s exhibition. From April 27, when the Africa summit begins, and April 28, when Iran Expo opens,

our focus will be on specialized negotiations and meetings. The exhibition’s conclusion on May 2 does not mark the end of activities; all negotiations and agreements must be pursued until their full realization.” At the press conference, the government spokesperson, Fatemeh Mohajerani, also described Africa as “one of the world’s largest and most promising markets,” which could play a key role in developing Iran’s non-oil exports. “With its abundant mineral resources, natural wealth, and human capital, Africa has become a major destination for global investment and an emerging market for exports. The Islamic Republic of Iran must increase its share in this growing market,” she added. Mohajerani also underscored Iran Expo’s role as an “effective platform to introduce the country’s production and export capacities,” predicting that “2,000 to 3,000 foreign traders and businesspeople from various nations will visit Iran for commercial negotiations.” She concluded, “The presence of this number of international economic actors in Iran offers the private sector a rare opportunity to leverage its capacities and shape effective trade negotiations and marketing efforts to expand exports.”

## Power shortages to sink below 10k MW under planned measures: *Minister*

Economy Desk

Iranian Energy Minister predicted that, “If planned measures are implemented, this year’s electricity deficit in the country will drop to below 10,000 megawatts (MW).” Abbas Aliabadi stated, “Last year’s electricity shortage was estimated at 18,000 to 20,000 MW. If this year’s plans are executed, we will reduce the shortages,” ISNA reported. The energy minister addressed reporters regarding the electricity deficits during the summer, remarking, “If measures are not implemented, the electricity shortages could reach 24,000 MW. However, we anticipate that with the execution of these plans, the imbalance will fall to less than 10,000 MW.” In response to ISNA’s question about the Energy Ministry’s plans to revise tariffs, he said, “Tariffs will be increased incrementally. For consumption within the standard pattern, there will be minimal changes. However, subscribers who exceed the standard consumption pattern will face more significant adjustments. This policy will apply to both water and electricity.” The minister elaborated on the challenges facing Iran’s electricity industry, emphasizing,



“The electricity deficit is an undeniable reality rooted in high energy intensity, particularly in the household sector. To manage this, extensive plans are underway, primarily aimed at optimizing consumption and reforming usage patterns, especially among high-consumption subscribers.” Aliabadi stressed that, “Serious management of electricity consumption in Iran is imperative, and reducing the deficit is impossible without public cooperation and corrective policies.” “Iran’s electricity economy requires fundamental reforms. We are developing and implementing policies to ensure that the economic burden of tariff hikes does not fall on low- and average-consumption subscribers. At the same time, it must be acknowledged that high-consumption subscribers, though fewer in number, account for a significant share of electricity usage and must be guided toward efficient consumption,” he added.

## Iran, Russia, China ...

These three nations have already had cooperation within frameworks like BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This type of cooperation, focusing on economy, is so significant that it has already caused concerns for the US over what it sees an expanding unity among Russia, China, and Iran. In the realm of political issues, these three countries are also aligned in

most cases. And when it comes to military and security issues, they are stepping up their game through smart cooperation, which boosts their deterrence and strengthens their defensive capabilities. Their economic, military, and political cooperation is not only aligned with each country’s strategic aims but are also in line with global realities. Indeed, that type of cooperation, in addition to serving the interests of each

country, also helps them work toward goals such as promoting international peace. But there is also another strategy that helps Russia, China, and Iran to take steps on promoting global peace. One of the main strategies they are pursuing — and must stick to — is keeping the so-called warmongering powers in check. These powers mainly earn their bread from selling weapons and are aiming to dominate and expand their influence. If these aggressive nations gain more power and broaden their territorial reach, their ability to

spark conflicts, destroy international peace, and pose threats to other countries will naturally grow. The strategy to confront these powers is being actively followed now. One of the reasons why Russia and China stand alongside Iran in its nuclear talks with the US is to counter American policies. They know full well that a weakened Iran is not in their best interest. A weaker Iran would lead to a stronger America, a country known for its belligerent stance that threatens international peace and security. Conversely, a strong Iran can serve as a bar-

rier against such threats. Chinese policymakers are focused on curbing US influence and preventing the spread of interventionist policies. Russia is pursuing the same approach as well. Based on this, these countries tend to align with Iran’s main strategy: preventing the United States from growing too powerful. Iran’s regional policy centers on creating a zone free of foreign influence, and establishing peace and security. Naturally, this leads to a genuine and practical partnership, forming a solid consensus.