

Iran, Niger sign cooperation document at joint economic meet



Iran's Minister of Industry, Mines, and Trade Mohammad Atabak (R) and Niger's Oil Minister Sahabi Oumarou sign a collaboration document during the third meeting of the Iran-Niger Joint Economic Cooperation Commission in Tehran on April 29, 2025.

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Iranian and Nigerien ministers signed a collaboration document in the fields of mining, energy, industry, and technology transfer during the third meeting of the Iran-Niger Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, held on the sidelines of the 7th Iran Expo 2025. The session took place during Expo 2025 with the participation of Mohammad Atabak, Iran's minister of industry, mines, and trade; Mohammad Ali Dehqan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO); and Sahabi Oumarou, Niger's oil minister, as reported by Mehr.

"After a 13-year hiatus," the two sides have successfully reactivated "the Iran-Niger Joint Cooperation Commission," Atabak said at the outset of the meeting, expressing hope that "the level of economic relations between the two coun-

tries will advance through this joint collaboration document." Highlighting the low volume of trade between Iran and Niger, he added, "The Trade Promotion Organization of Iran is responsible for pursuing and implementing these trade agreements. We expect Niger to designate a specific organization or authority to oversee the continuation and enhancement of cooperation, as well as the follow-up on provisions within the joint document."

New chapter in ties

During the meeting, Dehqan Dehnavi stated, "Extensive negotiations were conducted over the past two days between experts, during which the various clauses of the Iran-Niger joint collaboration document were reviewed and discussed. It was agreed in these sessions that bilateral relations should continue across multiple dimensions."

Referring to the preparation of the joint document on mining, energy, industry, and technology transfer, he noted, "A joint working group will oversee matters related to the Iran-Niger collaboration document through specialized technical teams."

The deputy minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade emphasized, "The signing of this document marks the beginning of a new chapter in Iran-Niger economic and trade relations. Further collaboration agreements will be prepared by experts for the next commission session."

Meanwhile, Niger's oil minister underscored the need to identify and promote market capabilities and trade opportunities between the two nations, stating, "Current trade relations remain below the desired level, and elevating them requires concerted efforts from both countries."

IOPTC voices readiness to transfer crude oil, swap with neighbors

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Iranian Oil Pipeline and Telecommunication Company (IOPTC) announced its readiness to transfer crude oil and conduct swap operations with neighboring countries. "The company is prepared to facilitate the transfer of crude oil and swap operations to neighboring countries, provided there is a declared need and the necessary conditions are met," IOPTC Chief Ali Ahmadipour was reported as saying by IRNA on Tuesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the second day of the Iran Expo 2025, Ahmadipour said, "We are capable of transferring crude oil and conducting swaps to countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and other neighboring states. However, the relevant



missions must be officially assigned to the company." The IOPTC chief added, "Last year, the company broke its transfer record, moving 144 billion liters of crude oil and petroleum products across the country." Ahmadipour further noted, "Our daily operations include transferring 190 million liters of petroleum products and 200 million liters of crude oil."

Iran-Iraq chambers say \$20b exports to Iraq on agenda

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Yahya Ale Eshaq, head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, revealed plans to expand exports to the neighboring Arab country to \$20 billion. "Plans are in place to raise exports to Iraq to at least \$20 billion within the next year or two," Ale Eshaq said. "Khuzestan has significant potential and capabilities and can serve as a driving force in developing Iran-Iraq relations." In an interview with ISNA regarding Khuzestan Province's capacities and the development of its trade relations, Ale Eshaq stated, "This year, we have exported \$12 billion officially and \$14 billion unofficially to Iraq."

The head of the chamber emphasized, "We are prepared to operate in various sectors, including technical and engineering services, small and large-scale trade, among other areas."

Ale Eshaq noted, "Iran-Iraq relations



are strategic and not overly dependent on ministerial changes. The determination of both countries is focused on expanding exports."

Tehran enters Cuba's sugarcane industry renovation



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Deputy minister of industry, mines and trade announced that Iran's Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) has entered discussions with Cuba to modernize and reconstruct the Latin American country's sugarcane industries, calling the move a fundamental shift in developing Tehran-Havana economic ties.

Farshad Moqimi met on Tuesday with the head of Cuba's Chamber of Commerce and an accompanying delegation during

a joint session focused on modernizing and renovating Cuba's sugarcane industries, IRNA reported.

"The project to modernize and reconstruct Cuba's sugarcane industries could provide a strong foundation for future cooperation between the two countries," Moqimi stated in the meeting.

Highlighting that "one of the best technical and executive teams has been assigned to this project," he added, "There are no technical challenges in this sector." The head of IDRO emphasized that "securing financial resources is the most critical issue for implementing this project," noting that "once this matter is resolved, the technical team will be dispatched to Cuba for further assessments."

During the meeting, President of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce Antonio Luis Carricarte Corona stated, "Sugarcane and its industry are integral to Cuba's identity and culture," adding that, "Cuba's public and private sectors will fully collaborate in executing this project."

Under the proposed plan, two Cuban sugarcane factories will be modernized and reconstructed as a pilot initiative.

Iran, Romania hash out boost in trade to \$1 billion

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The vice president of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture stated that Iran-Romania trade "does not align with the two nations' potential," and called for formulating a five-year plan to increase bilateral exchanges to \$1 billion during a meeting with his Romanian counterpart.

Qadir Qiyafteh, during a meeting with Aurelian Gogulescu, vice president of Romania's Chamber of Commerce, described the two nations' economies as "complementary" but noted that trade figures in recent years have remained modest.

"Latest statistics show Iran-Romania trade reached \$348 million, a figure far too low given our combined \$700 billion GDP," IRNA quoted Qiyafteh as saying.

Highlighting the composition of bilateral trade, he added, "In our exchanges, we exported petrochemicals, construction materials, etc., and imported auto parts, corn, and

wheat from Romania. However, the potential for expanding trade extends far beyond these sectors."

He identified transportation issues and tariff disparities as key challenges, stating, "Romania produces high-quality agricultural goods and cars, and holds advantages in oil and gas equipment. The Port of Constanța also shortens the Indian Ocean-Black Sea corridor, enhancing logistical efficiency."

Emphasizing Iran's strengths, he noted, "Oil, gas, and ferrous/non-ferrous metals are key areas for collaboration. Despite sanctions over 46 years, Iran has advanced in production and cutting-edge technologies like nanotechnology — ranked fifth globally — and pharmaceuticals. We remain keen to cooperate with Romania. Implementing bilateral agreements and forming joint banking committees would also be beneficial."

The vice president of Iran's chamber stressed that "active participation of Iranian and Romanian business-

es in each other's exhibitions will strengthen ties," reiterating the need for a "five-year plan to achieve \$1 billion in bilateral trade."

"Under Iranian law, companies engaged in international trade must join the Chamber. We have 34 provincial chambers, 39 joint chambers with other nations, and 300 associations across sectors, comprising over 110,000 small, medium, and large enterprises — a vast platform for collaboration," he further explained.

According to Gogulescu, "The trade between the two sides exceeded \$400 million in 2016, but declined in subsequent years due to various factors. Chambers can revive this by encouraging traders to participate in each other's exhibitions."

Gogulescu also recalled, "The Romanian Chamber delegation's 2016 visit to Tehran and a 2000 MoU with Iran's Chamber," adding, "Beyond these, our determination to deepen ties is pivotal. Like Iran, Romania's Chamber integrates all provincial chambers under its umbrella."