

# Iran may allow US inspectors of IAEA if deal reached: *Eslami*

UN nuclear chief lauds continuation of talks as 'good sign'

## International Desk

Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami said Wednesday that Tehran may reconsider allowing American inspectors through the United Nations nuclear watchdog if a deal is reached with the United States.

"Countries that were hostile to us and behaved unprincipledly over the years – we have always tried not to accept inspectors from those countries," Eslami told reporters, adding that Iran "will reconsider accepting American inspectors through the agency" if an agreement is reached and Tehran's demands are taken into account.

According to the terms of an existing agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran can approve a list of monitors to receive visas and inspect the country's nuclear sites.

Iran's caution increased after a series of sabotage attacks on its nuclear facilities, most of which is blamed on Israel. Iranian and US negotiators said Friday they made modest progress in the latest round of indirect talks aimed at

ending a standoff over Tehran's nuclear program and Washington's economic sanctions on the oil-rich Persian Gulf state.

Tehran and Washington are expected to hold a sixth round of talks, with US President Donald Trump predicting "good news."

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said Wednesday that "consultations are ongoing regarding the time and location of the next round of talks, and once finalized, they will be announced by Oman."

## Uranium enrichment

In recent weeks, the two countries have clashed over the issue of uranium enrichment in Iran, which Washington says must be brought to zero. Tehran maintains its nuclear program is exclusively for civilian purposes and views its enrichment industry as a red line. "Enrichment is the foundation and pillar of the country's nuclear industry. Suppose someone is allowed to have an electricity substation and network, but not allowed to establish a power plant," Eslami said.



Members of the media and officials tour the Arak nuclear facility in Markazi Province, Iran, on December 23, 2019.

● AP

"The enrichment percentage depends on the type of use. When highly enriched uranium is produced, it does not necessarily mean military use," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, Baqaei said, "The continuation of enrichment in Iran is an inseparable part of the country's nuclear industry and a fundamental principle for the Islamic Republic of Iran."

"Any proposal or initiative that contradicts this principle or undermines this right is unacceptable."

## Negotiations in right direction

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that there is hope that Iran and the US will make progress in nuclear negotiations and the process is moving in the right direction.

"There is hope that progress will be achieved and that everything is moving in the right direction," Lavrov told



an international security conference in Moscow on Wednesday.

"The right to enrichment in the framework of peaceful use of nuclear energy programs is key [in the negotiations between Iran and the United States]," he said.

The head of the United Nations' atomic

watchdog Rafael Mariano Grossi said Wednesday that "the jury is still out" on the negotiations, but described the continuing negotiations as a good sign. He made the comment to journalists attending a weeklong seminar at the agency in Vienna.

## Iran's top security official says unilateralism effectuating global disasters

## International Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Ali Akbar Ahmadian, on Wednesday criticized unilateralism in international politics, saying that it has led to widespread disasters, particularly in the West Asia region.

Ahmadian made the remarks at the 13th International Meeting of High Representatives for Security Issues in Russian capital, Moscow.

"Unilateralism in international politics and imposing the will of arrogant powers on nations have created many disasters in the world, and today the West Asian region is an exhibition of these crimes," he said.

Referring to the situation of regional countries such as Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq, the Iranian official said, "The foundation of the West's unilateralist policy is built on the oppression and exploitation of nations, and the whole world is witnessing an unprecedented crime taking place in Gaza, where, in addition to inhumane killings, women and children are facing a gradual death from starvation."

He said that a comprehensive security in the world requires multilateralism, and fair and equal opportunities must



be provided to nations in the new security order.

Ahmadian said that international political and security structures have been currently taken hostage by the West while Iran believes that security should serve the people and for the independence and freedom of nations. Ahmadian further warned that hegemonic powers are using sanctions and advanced technologies to deprive



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian (on screen) speaks at the 13th International Meeting of High Representatives for Security Issues in Moscow, Russia, on May 28, 2025.

● IRNA

nations of their legitimate rights, including Iran's right to peaceful nuclear energy.

## Nationwide truck drivers' strike: Gov't spokeswoman affirms voices of entire citizens will be heard



## National Desk

Iran's government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani reacted to days of strike by the country's truck drivers, saying that the administration has a duty to respond to the needs of all citizens.

Mohajerani said a report was presented at the Wednesday cabinet meeting on the status of the drivers' strike and the measures taken by the minister of roads and urban development. She underlined that "the voices of all citizens will be heard."

Truck drivers across Iran were on Wednesday pressing the seventh day of a strike, seeking better conditions in a sector crucial for the economy in the coun-

try. They are protesting a rise in high fuel prices, low freight rates and insurance premiums.

After starting last week in the southwestern port city of Bandar Abbas, the industrial action has spread across Iran even as road transport is critical to food supply in the country.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf was quoted as saying that the truckers were a "key link in the production and supply chain" and urging the government to act swiftly.

The drivers' strike has caused a shortage and price increase in the market for agricultural products, iron, cement and many other construction items.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

## One-sided, overreaching approach ...

With booming populations and rising energy demands, fossil fuels are no longer up to the task. Nations around the globe are turning to modern and renewable energy sources.

Moreover, uranium enrichment goes well beyond energy production. It plays a crucial role in medical and scientific fields, from manufacturing radiopharmaceuticals and fueling research reactors to producing radioactive materials used in disease diagnosis and cancer treatment.

The nature of today's world dictates that any leap in technology should be accessible to all nations. The Islamic Republic seeks nothing beyond this right, yet will stand its ground and

never back down from its right to enrichment.

The demand to dismantle Iran's enrichment capability is reportedly being floated by US officials, and it is almost certain that other pretexts may crop up from the other side as talks move forward. However, Iran has drawn red lines for its policies and framework, and will not strike a deal with anyone over these. In my view, Iran's right to enrichment and other legitimate rights must be written into any agreement.

As the Leader, President Masoud Pezeshkian, and the negotiating team have all hammered home, the other side must come to the table recognizing Iran's legitimate and rational

rights.

If they try to ride roughshod over Iran's red lines, refuse to acknowledge Iran's core demands, and instead push for a lopsided deal, then talks will no longer hold any real meaning and turn into a one-way street, where Washington tries to strong-arm Iran into caving in to its every demand—an approach that flies in the face of what genuine negotiations are all about. Should the Americans press ahead with a one-sided approach, peppering talks with threats, overreach, and unreasonable demands, it is certain that the negotiations will go nowhere and neither side will benefit. But if there is to be any fallout, it will surely be the Americans who lose out most.

