

Araghchi: Iran working with China, Russia against snapback invocation

Beijing says 'opposes' European sanctions on Tehran



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is seen in an interview with national television in the Iraqi city of Karbala on August 14, 2025.
● IRNA

International Desk

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran is actively collaborating with China and Russia to prevent the reactivation of UN sanctions through the so-called "snapback" mechanism threatened by European countries.

"We are working with China and Russia to stop it," Araghchi told national television late on Thursday. "If this does not work and they apply it, we have tools

to respond. We will discuss them in due course."

The snapback mechanism, embedded in the 2015 nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), allows the automatic reinstatement of UN Security Council sanctions that had been lifted under the agreement. Iran, however, disputes the legitimacy of the European powers' efforts to trigger the provision.

Araghchi explained that although

the term "snapback" does not explicitly appear in the JCPOA text, its mechanism is clearly established and has even been invoked by Iran itself in response to the US withdrawal from the deal in 2018.

"We used the snapback mechanism ourselves," Araghchi said. "When the United States left the JCPOA and reimposed sanctions unilaterally, we started to reduce our commitments in phases, eventually returning to pre-agreement conditions."

Iran's return to higher levels of uranium enrichment — including to 20% and then 60% enrichment — was enabled by preserving its nuclear infrastructure intact during the JCPOA years.

"The infrastructure was maintained so that when we decided to restart enrichment at higher levels, it took less than 24 hours," he noted.

Regarding the European powers' attempt to reimpose sanctions, Araghchi emphasized that their legal authority to trigger snapback is highly questionable under international law.

He said the European countries' recent statements demanding

"zero enrichment" violate the terms of the JCPOA, effectively amounting to a rejection of the deal.

"When they say 'zero enrichment,' they no longer accept the JCPOA framework and therefore cannot claim the rights granted to members of the deal, including the right to activate snapback," Araghchi said.

The UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses the JCPOA and contains the snapback clause, is set to expire on October 18, 2025. Iran has warned that beyond this date, the snapback mechanism will no longer be available.

On Wednesday, foreign ministers from the E3 group — Britain, France and Germany — once again threatened to do so in a joint letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Security Council.

In the letter, the E3 group said they were "committed to us(ing) all diplomatic tools at our disposal to ensure Iran does not develop a nuclear weapon."

In a detailed letter to the UN Security Council, Iran has laid out its position, asserting that Brit-

ain, France, and Germany are no longer legitimate JCPOA participants with the authority to reinstate sanctions through snapback. This position is supported by China and Russia, who share Tehran's view on the matter.

China and Russia's backing plays a critical role in Iran's diplomatic efforts to counter the snapback threat. Both countries are permanent members of the UN Security Council and have veto power over resolutions, including those related to Iran's nuclear program.

"We have been holding repeated technical and legal discussions with China and Russia over the years about the snapback mechanism," Araghchi said. "Their support is crucial in this ongoing legal and political dispute with the European countries."

China 'opposes' European move

China "opposes invoking" sanctions and "believes that it does not help parties build trust and bridge differences and is not conducive to the diplomatic effort for the early resumption of talks," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin

Jian said in a statement on Friday. "Any moves taken by the Security Council now should help reach new agreements in talks, instead of the opposite," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin added.

'Cooperation with IAEA requires new framework'

Araghchi also said the relationship between Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has fundamentally changed following attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, and future cooperation must be based on a new framework.

"The reality is that after this attack, changes have occurred. Our nuclear facilities were attacked and suffered damage. The IAEA first needs to tell us what the inspection protocol is for a bombed nuclear site. There is no such protocol because there is no precedent," he said.

"When you want to inspect a bombed facility, you have to clarify who will clear the rubble, how to approach the site, and what the threats are. There are dangers from unexploded ordnance and radiation, and the IAEA must have a protocol for that."

Netanyahu's comments on 'Greater Israel' infuriate Arab world

International Desk

Arab nations slammed recent comments by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu apparently expressing support for the idea of an expanded "Greater Israel", calling the remarks a threat to their sovereignty at an especially tense time for the region.

The term Greater Israel refers to a biblical interpretation of the nation's territory during the time of King Solomon, encompassing not only the present-day Palestinian territories of Gaza and the occupied West Bank, but also parts of modern Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Ultra-nationalist Israelis have called for these territories to be occupied. Asked on Tuesday by i24NEWS interviewer Sharon Gal if he subscribed to such a "vision" for a Greater Israel, Netanyahu said "absolutely", adding, "If you ask me what I think, we're there."

He then pivoted to a comment about the founding of Israel and the "great mission" of ensuring its continued existence.

Israel's neighbor Jordan on Wednesday condemned the prime minister's Greater Israel remarks as a "dangerous and provocative escalation" and "a threat to the sovereignty of states."

A spokesman for its foreign ministry went on to reject what he called Netanyahu's "inflammatory" rhetoric and "delusional claims."

Egypt also said on Wednesday that it had "requested clarification on this matter," characterizing it as tantamount to a "rejection of the option of peace in the region."

Netanyahu's remarks come in the midst of a 22-month war between Israel and the Palestinian resistance group Hamas in the Gaza Strip that has repeatedly spilled over into the wider Middle East and provoked



frequent condemnation of Israel from across the Arab world.

On Thursday, Iraq's Foreign Ministry condemned the comments, saying they revealed Israel's "expansionist ambitions" and were "a clear provocation to the sovereignty of countries."

Gaza mediator Qatar also decried Netanyahu's statements calling them "absurd" and "inflammatory."

Palestinian state

The allusion to an expanded Israel also comes as far-right members of Netanyahu's cabinet demand the conquest of Gaza and annexation of the West Bank, where the cabinet recently approved a rash of new settlements considered illegal under international law.

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday voiced "its total rejection of the ideas and plans for colonization and expansion adopted by the Israeli occupation authorities," reiterating "the historical and legal right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state."

In February, Netanyahu in a television interview provoked an outcry from Arab countries after he suggested a Palestinian state could be

established on Saudi land.

In Tuesday's sit-down, the premier also revived calls to "allow" Palestinians to leave Gaza, telling Israeli broadcaster i24NEWS that "we are not pushing them out, but we are allowing them to leave."

Pakistan on Friday also condemned recent remarks by Netanyahu and Israel's finance minister Bezalel Smotrich "calling the statements a violation of international law and an attempt to forcibly displace Palestinians from Gaza."

Smotrich also has announced plans to expand settlement building in the occupied West Bank to "bury the idea of a Palestinian state."

"Pakistan strongly condemns and rejects recent statements made by the Israeli Occupying power, alluding to the creation of so-called 'Greater Israel,' and its designs aimed at the forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The ministry said the remarks showed Israel's intent to cement its occupation and disregard peace efforts, urging the international community to act swiftly to halt further regional destabilization and end crimes against Palestinians.

Hezbollah warns of civil war in Lebanon if gov't insists on disarmament bid

Sheikh Qassem affirms 'resistance will not surrender its weapons'

International Desk

Hezbollah chief Sheikh Naim Qassem on Friday accused Lebanon's government of "handing" the country to Israel by pushing for the popular resistance group's disarmament, saying that the government is implementing an American-Israeli order, even if it leads to civil war.

Under US pressure the Lebanese government has ordered the army to devise a plan to disarm the resistance group by the end of the year after Lebanese group reached a cease-fire agreement with Israel to end a conflict with the regime, which began following Israel's war on Gaza in October 2023. "The government is implementing an American-Israeli order to end the resistance, even if it leads to civil war and internal strife," Sheikh Qassem said. "The resistance will not surrender its weapons while aggression continues, occupation persists, and we will fight it... if necessary to confront this American-Israeli project no matter the cost," he said. Qassem urged the government "not to hand over the country to an insatiable Israeli aggressor or an American tyrant with limitless greed."



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Sheikh Naim Qassem

He also said the government would "bear responsibility for any internal explosion and any destruction of Lebanon", accusing it of "leading the country to ruin."

Hezbollah and its ally Amal would not be organizing any street protests at this time, he said, while threatening to do so in future.

His comments came two days after a visit by Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani to Lebanon, where he met Sheikh Qassem as well as President Joseph Aoun. The Iranian official assured the movement that the Islamic Republic would consistently stand beside them, stressing that the country did not interfere in the domestic affairs of other nations, but would never abandon its support for the resistance front.

