

# Araghchi: Armenia's prosperity, peace in Caucasus play part in Iran's border security

Pezeshkian to depart for Armenia, Belarus on Monday



Abbas Araghchi  
● AFP

## International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi underlined the strategic importance of relations between Iran and Armenia, saying that peace in the South Caucasus region and the prosperity in Armenia contribute to the security of Iran's borders.

In an article published by Armenia Press ahead of a Monday visit by the Iranian president to Armenia, Araghchi said Iran commits itself to establishing peace and stability in the region and stresses that ensuring security, lasting peace, and implementing any projects in the region depend on respecting the territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and security of all countries.

Araghchi said Iran is steadfast in supporting peace and stability in the South Caucasus region, adding that Tehran favors an Armenia with high level of pros-

perity and welfare – issues that contribute to the security of Iran's borders.

The visit by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Armenia comes after a peace agreement reached between Iran's northern neighbors — Armenia and Azerbaijan — on August 8.

Referring to deep relations between Iranian and Armenian nations, he said Iran was one of the first countries to recognize Armenia's independence in 1991, a decision that reflects the depth of their relations and Iran's commitment to supporting its neighbors during significant historical moments. Armenians in Iran are the largest religious minority in the country and actively participate in all aspects of social life in Iran, he said.

"The geopolitical outlook of our region highlights the strategic importance of our relations. The interests of Iran and Armenia are increasingly intertwined

amid global uncertainty and regional developments. Our shared borders are not merely a geographical fact but a bridge for cooperation in energy, transportation, human relations, and regional security," Araghchi said.

Pointing to the importance of Pezeshkian's visit to Armenia, Araghchi said the trip is not just a diplomatic meeting but a reaffirmation of the two countries' commitment to open new horizons in their relations.

According to presidential political advisor Mehdi Sanaei, Pezeshkian is scheduled to depart on Monday evening for a two-day tour to Armenia and Belarus. Sanaei said improving bilateral relations with Armenia and Belarus, especially in the trade, and signing cooperation documents would be on the president's agenda during the visits, adding that the trips had been scheduled for June but were postponed.

## Pezeshkian condoles with Pakistan, offers support over deadly floods

### International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed condolences to the prime minister and the people of Pakistan following the deaths of hundreds of people in the country's recent floods. In a message on Saturday, Pezeshkian expressed the sincere sympathy of the Iranian government and people to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as well as the government and people of Pakistan, following the devastating flood in parts of the neighboring country.

He also emphasized Iran's readiness for any cooperation and humanitarian and relief assistance to the affected people.

Pakistani authorities said on Saturday that flash floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains across northern Pakistan have killed at least 344 people in just 48 hours.

The majority of deaths, 324, were reported in mountainous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, the National Disaster Management Authority said. Most were killed in flash floods and collapsing houses, while at least 137 others were injured.

The provincial rescue agency said around 2,000 rescue workers were engaged in recovering bodies from the debris and carrying out relief operations in nine districts, where rain was still hampering efforts.

"Heavy rainfall, landslides in several areas, and washed-out roads are causing significant challenges in deliv-



People gather near a damaged vehicle and scattered debris following a flash flood in Mingora in northern Pakistan's mountainous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province on August 16, 2025.  
● AFP

ering aid, particularly in transporting heavy machinery and ambulances," said Bilal Ahmed Faizi, spokesman for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's rescue agency.

The provincial government has declared the severely affected mountainous districts of Buner, Bajaur, Swat, Shangla, Mansehra and Battagram as disaster-hit areas.

The meteorological department has also issued a heavy rain alert for Pakistan's northwest, urging people to take "precautionary measures."

Eleven more people were killed in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and another nine in the northern Gilgit-Baltistan region, national officials said.

Five more were killed when a local

government helicopter crashed due to bad weather during a relief mission on Friday.

The monsoon season brings South Asia about three-quarters of its annual rainfall, vital for agriculture and food security, but it also brings destruction.

Landslides and flash floods are common during the season, which usually begins in June and eases by the end of September.

Pakistan is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change and is contending with extreme weather events with increasing frequency.

Monsoon floods in 2022 submerged a third of the country and killed around 1,700 people.

## Tehran reiterates warning about foreign interference in Caucasus region

### International Desk

Iran's government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani warned that involvement of transregional actors in the Caucasus equations could have long-term negative consequences for peace and stability of the region.

Mohajerani in an article published in Iran's newspaper said Tehran has openly expressed its concerns about any foreign presence in the region after Armenia and Azerbaijan reached a US-brokered peace agreement which has granted Washington development rights to a strategic transit route across the strategic area.

The Iranian official noted that Iran's concern arises from the historical experience of the region, where the interference of transregional powers has complicated crises and prolonged the path to peace. Iran believes that the most sustainable solutions for the Caucasus region should be come up with cooperation and dialogue among the regional countries, not from pressure and dictation by external actors, Mohajerani said.

She said that experience in other parts of the world shows that agreements made without considering the sensitivities and real interests of neighboring countries, or those imposed by external pressure, either fail to be implemented or collapse at the first political crisis.

Back on August 8, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani Pres-



Fatemeh Mohajerani  
● IRNA

ident Ilham Aliyev signed the US-mediated peace deal at the White House.

The accord includes the creation of a transit corridor through Armenia to connect Azerbaijan to its enclave of Nakhchivan – a longstanding demand of Baku. Under the deal, the United States will have development rights to the corridor – dubbed the "Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity" (TRIPP) – in the strategic, resource-rich region.

Iran has long opposed the modification of the corridor – often referred to as Zangezur – fearing it would cut the Islamic Republic off from the Caucasus.

Christian-majority Armenia and Muslim-majority Azerbaijan have feuded for decades over their border and the status of ethnic enclaves within each other's territories. The nations went to war twice over the disputed Karabakh region, which Azerbaijan recaptured from Armenian forces in a lightning 2023 offensive, sparking the exodus of more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians.

## Iran should not...

To break free from the current deadlock, Iran needs to shed old taboos. Experience has shown that taboos

such as refusing to negotiate with the US, or resorting only to indirect talks, have brought no benefit to Iran and instead imposed heavy costs on its people. The time has come for Iran to enter into direct negotiations with Washington and resolve its disputes, particularly as many of the issues that once divided the two countries have now lost relevance, paving the way toward an agreement. Unlike Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who thrives on confrontation, Washington is currently looking for diplomacy, and Iran has the chance to resolve its problems

directly with the US.

Given developments in recent months, Iran and the US are no longer immediate threats to one another. What must be avoided is the transformation of the Iran-Israel standoff into an Iran-US confrontation. Netanyahu's push against Tehran in the wake of the October 7, 2023 attacks and the subsequent war on Gaza was driven step by step to drag Washington into a clash with Tehran—something that must not be allowed to succeed.

In any prospective talks, Iran should steer clear of intermediaries and prolonged indirect channels, since such arrangements only serve Israel's interests. Tehran and Washington need to sit face to face at the negotiating ta-

ble, and today the conditions for doing so are more favorable than before. A workable agreement could be within reach.

At present, Iran's and America's incentives to negotiate are in fact closer to each other than America's alignment with Israel. Washington has signed some \$4 trillion worth of economic contracts in the region, the execution of which hinges on security. Iran, too, is actively seeking to establish and preserve regional stability. By contrast, Israel stands out as the lone actor undermining security.

Against this backdrop, Iran must shed outdated taboos, directly address its regional challenges, and move toward resolving its differences with the US.



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