

# Russia circulates proposal in UNSC to extend snapback deadline

## International Desk

Russia said on Tuesday that it had circulated an updated proposal in the UN Security Council aimed at pushing back the deadline for triggering snapback mechanism against Iran by six months until April 18 next year. Russia's deputy UN ambassador, Dmitry Polyanskiy, said that the "second version" of their proposal was designed to "give more breathing space for diplomacy," adding that he hoped it "will be acceptable."

"The choice of the international community should be in favor of peace and diplomacy, not in favor of war – and that is what our draft is about," the Russian official added.

The European trio of the UK, France, and Germany – the United States allies in a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world countries – has long threatened to trigger the "snapback" of sanctions at the UN security council

before October 18, when the nuclear deal expires.

Iran has repeatedly said that the European trio lacked all legal and moral authority to try to have the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) restore its sanctions on Iran.

In 2018, the United States left the agreement in an illegal and unilateral move that was followed by its returning its sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

The European trio not only failed to live up to their promise of bringing back the US to the deal, but also followed in Washington's footsteps by returning their own economic bans targeting the Islamic Republic.

Now, they are trying to trigger the mechanism, accusing the Islamic Republic of "diverting" its peaceful nuclear energy activities towards "military purposes," despite the lack of all justifying evidence.

"Russia and China want to give more

breathing space for diplomacy and provide some possibilities for an active quest for a diplomatic solution to this issue," the Russian official said.

"It will be kind of a litmus test for those who really want to uphold diplomatic efforts, and for those who don't want any diplomatic solution, but just want to pursue their own nationalist, selfish agendas against Iran," he told media.

Russia's proposal came after Iranian diplomats held talks with counterparts from Britain, France and Germany in Geneva on Tuesday.

The talks – the second round since the Israeli attacks --included discussion of European threats to trigger the reimposition of UN sanctions against Iran before they are permanently lifted in mid-October.

After the talks, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said it is time for the Europe and the UN Security Council to make the right choice and



REUTERS

give diplomacy a chance.

During their previous meeting with Iran in July, the three European powers suggested extending the snapback deadline if Tehran resumed negotiations with the United States and coop-

eration with the IAEA.

Iran later dismissed the Europeans' right to extend the deadline, and said it was working with its allies China and Russia to prevent the reimposition of sanctions.

## Security forces kill 13 terrorists in southeast



TASNIM

## National Desk

At least 13 terrorists were killed and several others were arrested on Wednesday in separate operations by Iran's security forces in southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

According to a statement by Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), some of those killed were suspected of being behind an ambush reported on Friday that killed five policemen in the city of Iranshahr. The so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorists group claimed responsibility for the August 22 ambush.

Iranshahr is one of three cities, alongside Khash and Saravan, where the IRGC said security operations were carried out.

"During the operations, unfortunately, one IRGC member was martyred and another was injured," IRGC commander Hassan Mortazavi was quoted as saying by state TV.

Mortazavi added that a "kidnapped citizen was released and returned to their family".

Eight out of 13 terrorists, responsible for the August 22 attack, were killed by the security forces in Iranshahr.

Police spokesman General Saeed Montazer al-Mahdi said that servicemen from the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FARAJA), together with intelligence and security units, carried out a successful operation against the terrorists in the city and eliminated all of

them.

According to Montazer al-Mahdi, a considerable number of weapons and ammunition was recovered from the slain terrorists.

Sistan and Baluchestan, which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, has long been a flashpoint for clashes between security forces and terrorist groups.

On Saturday, Iranian forces killed six terrorists in another raid in the province, saying they were members of a group linked to Israel.

The Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi in a phone conversation with his Pakistani counterpart Field Marshal Asim Munir on Tuesday said that Tehran is ready to cooperate with Islamabad to eradicate terrorism and secure the two countries common border.

"Unfortunately, the movements of terrorist groups on both sides of the border have increased, and we are ready to cooperate to eradicate terrorism in this region and secure the common borders," Mousavi said.

Munir, for his part, expressed complete agreement on the issue of border security, emphasizing the necessity of transforming the Pakistan-Iran border into one defined by friendship, brotherhood, and economic development.

## Azerbaijan's Aliyev: Zangazur corridor poses no threat to Iran



Ilham Aliyev

## International Desk

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev rejected concerns about the implementation of a transit corridor between Azerbaijan and its exclave of Nakhchivan, saying that the route is not a threat to Iran.

The Azerbaijani president in an interview with Al Arabiya underlined that the Zangazur corridor poses no threat to Iran in any way and, on the contrary, can help develop regional cooperation.

He said that there have been many rumors in certain media outlets and websites about Azerbaijan's plans to occupy Zangezur and cut the border between Iran and Armenia.

"This is completely false. We have no such intention," Aliyev stressed.

Back on August 8, Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan 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 exclave 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, 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.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

## Araghchi: IAEA inspectors ...

Under the law suspending cooperation, inspectors may access Iranian nuclear sites only with the approval of the country's top security body, the Supreme National Security Council.

Tehran has repeatedly said that future cooperation with the agency will take "a new form."

The spokesman for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Behrouz Kamalvandi, also said the IAEA inspectors would oversee the replacement of fuel at the Bushehr nuclear power plant in southwestern Iran.

Kamalvandi made no mention of whether inspectors would be allowed access to other sites, including Fordow and Natanz, which were hit during the war.

In an interview with Fox News, Grossi said the agency and Iran were still discussing what kind of "practical modalities can be implemented in order to facilitate the restart of our work there."

The return of inspectors came after Iranian diplomats held talks with counterparts from Britain, France and



Bushehr nuclear power plant  
MEHR

Germany in Geneva on Tuesday.

The talks – the second round since the Israeli attacks – included discussion of European threats to trigger the reimposition of UN sanctions against Iran before they are permanently lifted in mid-October.

