

Pezeshkian calls for pushback against 'bullying', unilateralism

Iran-China convergence serving as 'solid basis for expanding cooperation': *Official*

International Desk

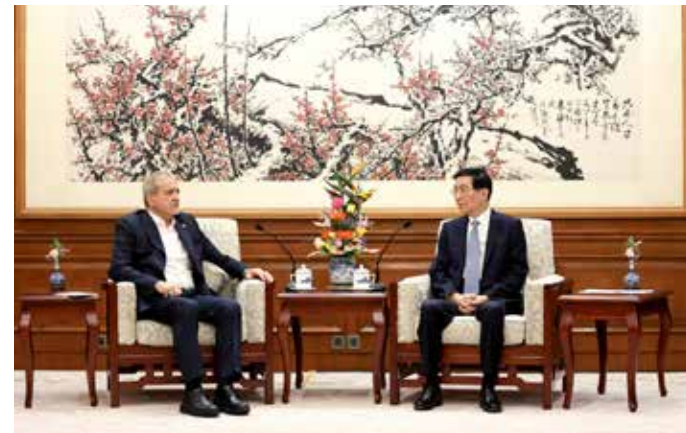
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday urged closer cooperation with China to counter what he called the "bullying" of states seeking to undermine relations between Tehran and Beijing. Speaking during a meeting with Huang Hu, a senior member of the Communist Party of China, Pezeshkian said Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has instructed the government to expand relations with China, and my administration is "committed to moving quickly to implement agreements through a joint working group." The remarks came a day after

Pezeshkian's talks with President Xi Jinping, where both leaders agreed to accelerate previously signed deals. "The Islamic Republic is ready to put into practice all the agreements reached," Pezeshkian said, stressing that the outcomes of the Xi meeting must be followed through. Huang echoed those pledges, saying Beijing is "ready to operationalize" Xi's commitments. He underlined China's continued backing of Iran's sovereignty and national interests, adding that promises made by Xi would "certainly be fulfilled." Turning to multilateral cooperation, Pezeshkian described the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a key platform to

counter unilateralism. "Humanity is thirsty for justice, fairness and rule of law," he said. "Global civilization rests on the ancient cultures of countries like Iran and China, enabling nations to live with dignity." Huang thanked Tehran for supporting Xi's recently unveiled "Global Governance Initiative," presented at the SCO summit this week. He said China and Iran shared common views on rejecting hegemony and upholding the post-World War II international order, calling the convergence "a solid basis for expanding cooperation." Pezeshkian had endorsed the initiative in his meeting with Xi, calling it an important step toward strengthening multilateralism and pushing back against unilateral approaches. The proposal seeks to reshape global governance around fairness, multipolarity, and people-centered development. The Iranian president wrapped up his four-day visit to China on September 3 by joining leaders from more than 25 countries at a military parade in Beijing marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, where China showcased its latest weaponry.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) meets with Huang Hu, a senior member of the Communist Party of China, in Beijing on September 3, 2025
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During his stay, Pezeshkian addressed the 25th SCO summit and the parallel "SCO Plus" meeting and met with the presidents of China, Russia, Turkey,

and Tajikistan, Pakistan's prime minister, and the UN secretary-general. He later held a session with Iranian expatriates living in China.

US rules, conditions blocking Iran nuclear talks: *Gov't spox*

International Desk

Iran's government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said on Wednesday that US "special conditions and rules" are preventing the resumption of stalled nuclear talks, despite Tehran's stated readiness to return to the negotiations. Speaking after a weekly cabinet meeting, she stressed that talks "cannot take place by diktats," and must be conducted with free will. She also reiterated that Iran's missile capability was off the table, recalling the country's vulnerability during the eight-year war with Iraq (1980-88) when it lacked missiles to defend its people. By contrast, she cited Iran's ability to safeguard itself during the recent 12-day conflict with Israel, which ended on June 24. Iran was engaged in indirect nuclear talks with the US, when Israel attacked and started a 12-day conflict that also saw the US bomb Iran's nuclear facilities. Negotiations have since been frozen. Tehran insists it is ready to return to the table, but only with guarantees that it will not face renewed attacks. However, Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), said in a tweet on September 2 that it is the US which is unwilling to enter negotiations. He stressed that Iran seeks "rational negotiations," but accused Washington of raising "unrealizable issues",



Government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani speaks to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting in Tehran on September 3, 2025.
● [IRNA](#)

such as the missile capability, that block dialogue. The dispute comes as France, Germany and Britain triggered the so-called "snapback" mechanism under the 2015 nuclear deal on August 28, a move that could see the return of UN sanctions within 30 days unless a new agreement is reached. The three European powers have urged Tehran to engage with Washington to prevent that outcome. Russia and China, however, have backed Iran, joining Tehran in a letter to the UN Security Council demanding that the mechanism be scrapped, arguing it violates both the 2015 nuclear deal and Resolution 2231 that endorsed it. Asked about those joint efforts, Mohajerani said, "We are making these moves because we are hopeful. Otherwise, such steps would not be taken." She added that

Iran was mobilizing all its diplomatic capacity, particularly with eastern partners, to find a way forward. UN spokesman Stéphane Dujarric, meanwhile, said although the UN is not a member of the nuclear deal, the director general has urged all parties to use the 30-day window to "strengthen the path of diplomacy." South Korea's Sang Jin Kim, the Security Council's rotating president, acknowledged "wide divergences" over interpretations of Resolution 2231, saying only that discussions remain ongoing. "We had an informal dialogue with members of the Security Council on this matter," he said. He added that, at present, he cannot predict what will happen. "Our goal is to consult transparently, honestly, and closely with the relevant parties," he said.

Tehran raps US escalation in Caribbean as 'serious threat' to global peace

International Desk

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Ali Bahreini, warned on Wednesday that recent US actions in Latin America and the Caribbean pose a "serious threat" to international peace and security, accusing Washington of violating the UN Charter. Speaking at a session of the UN Conference on Disarmament, Bahreini highlighted years of "illegal sanctions, unilateral coercive measures, and attempts at regime change and even assassination of lawful officials" in Venezuela. He said the recent deployment of a US naval fleet and nuclear submarine to the Caribbean "openly threatens the political independence and territorial integrity of Venezuela." The US claims the deployment targets narcotics trafficking and accuses Venezuela of collaborating with drug cartels, while Caracas views the buildup as a threat to its sovereignty. Bahreini described these actions as a "clear violation of fundamental principles of international law," including Article 2 of the UN Charter, which prohibits the use of force, obliges states to resolve disputes peacefully, and forbids interference in the internal affairs of other nations. "The very purpose of the United Nations is to uphold the rule of law in international relations, not to impose power and pressure," he said, regretting that the recent US attack on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities in cooperation with Israel, showed Washington's disregard for diplomacy. The US joined Israel in its aggression against Iran in June, bombarding the country's three main nuclear sites. The envoy stressed that threatening a



non-nuclear NPT member with a nuclear submarine by a permanent Security Council member "delivers a serious blow to the disarmament and non-proliferation regime." He further argued that the move violates the Treaty of Tlatelolco, a regional pact that establishes Latin America and the Caribbean as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, to which the United States is a signatory under Protocol II. Calling on the international community to act before the crisis escalates into "all-out confrontation," Bahreini urged Washington to withdraw its military forces from the Caribbean, respect Venezuela's sovereignty, and commit to resolving disputes through diplomacy and international law. He concluded by warning that "provocative behavior by a nuclear-armed state against a non-nuclear country once again demonstrates how real the risk of nuclear weapons use remains." The only credible guarantee against such a threat, he said, was "complete, verifiable, and irreversible nuclear disarmament." "Until such a goal is achieved, providing binding legal assurances of non-use and non-threat of use against non-nuclear states remains an undeniable necessity," he concluded.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

PBO confirms planned hike in next year's military funding

National Desk

Hamid Pourmohammadi, head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), confirmed that the country's military spending will see an increase next year, amid ongoing security threats following this summer's conflict with Israel and the United States. Pourmohammadi told reporters on Wednesday that "naturally, the defense budget will rise" in the coming fiscal year. His remarks come after Iran endured a 12-day war that erupted on June 13 when Israel launched strikes against the country, later

joined by the US, targeting Iranian nuclear facilities. The conflict ended with a ceasefire, but Tehran says the threats to its national security remain. The Iranian government had already sharply increased its defense budget for the current Persian calendar year (started March 21). According to Iran's budget law, military allocations nearly tripled compared to the previous year. The direct funding earmarked for the Armed Forces, including the Ministry of Defense, the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and police forces, is estimated between \$15.7 billion and \$21.8 billion.

Government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani announced after the approval of the budget law that the defense funding would rise by 200%, stressing the move was aimed at "strengthening the country's deterrent power." Despite this rise, military spending in the Middle East remains dominated by Iran's regional rivals. Saudi Arabia allocated \$75.8 billion in 2023, ranking fifth globally after the US, China, Russia, and India. Israel followed with \$27.5 billion, a 24% jump largely tied to its war in Gaza. Turkey, with \$15.8 billion, ranked 22nd worldwide, still outspending Iran.

