

Iran voices ‘practical commitment’ to renewables at IRENA meeting

Economy Desk

Iran's representative to the 29th meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Council said the Islamic Republic is practically committed to achieving a sustainable energy transition and development of clean energy. The Iranian delegate underlined Tehran's determination to expand renewables and cited concrete steps such as boosting solar and wind power capacity and implementing energy efficiency projects in residential and industrial sectors, IRNA reported. These measures, the official said, demonstrate Iran's "practical commitment" to advancing a sustainable energy transition. The council meeting, held in Abu Dhabi on September 11-12, brought together more than 400 participants from 169 member states to discuss energy security, supply chain diversification and global renewable energy strategies. For the first time since the agency's establishment, the Islamic Republic of Iran has joined IRENA's Council, a de-

velopment the delegation described as a sign of the country's growing role in international clean energy cooperation and its national strategy to harness renewable resources.

Iran's nominal renewable electricity generation capacity reached 2,000 megawatts in early July. By comparison, the country's overall nominal power generation capacity stood at 94,649 megawatts by the end of the first months of the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 20, 2025, edging close to the 95,000-megawatt mark. Despite recent expansion, the renewable share remains relatively modest in the country's total energy mix. The push for renewables is also embedded in Iran's Seventh Development Plan, which mandates the construction and commissioning of 12,000 megawatts of new renewable power capacity over five years. In parallel, the government has set a target of boosting renewable electricity generation capacity by 30,000 megawatts during its four-year term, which began in last June.



IRNA

Pistachio exports fetch \$1.7b despite EU restrictions



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Iran generated \$1.7 billion in foreign currency earnings from pistachio exports last year after resolving technical disputes that had prompted the European Union to consider a ban on the trade, deputy agriculture minister said, as reported by ILNA. According to Mohammad Mehdi Boroumandi, the country has 600,000 hectares of pistachio orchards. The crop, known for its drought tolerance and resis-

tance to salinity, is considered a strategic export product with comparative advantage in global markets. The European Union had set a six-month deadline for Iranian pistachio exporters to review their consignments and comply with health standards and sanitary requirements. After the six-month review period of the quality of Iranian pistachio exports, the EU lifted the restrictions and confirmed that shipments could continue without obstacles.

Meanwhile, foreign exchange revenues from horticultural exports rose from \$2.9 billion to \$4.3 billion under President Masoud Pezeshkian's government, driven by what the deputy minister for horticulture affairs at the ministry described as stronger agricultural diplomacy. For the first time, Iranian citrus fruits were exported to China and apples to the Philippines, Boroumandi said. Despite unprecedented drought, sanctions, a weaker currency and higher farming costs over the past year, agricultural production still rose about 6% from the previous year, the official said. In tropical fruits, banana output nearly doubled to 340,000 tons from 180,000 tons. Still, Iran imported 622,000 tons of bananas worth \$700 million last year. Pilot projects to raise yields are under way in Sistan and Baluchistan and Hormuzgan provinces, with plans to expand banana cultivation by 5,000 hectares, Boroumandi said, adding that the expansion will help cover a significant share of domestic demand in coming years.

IAC plans to boost overflight traffic with airspace control upgrade

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The head of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company (IAC) said the country plans to raise the number of international overflights through its skies by at least 50% once it completes a major upgrade of its national airspace control center. Currently, about 730 flights pass daily through Iranian airspace, compared with more than 2,000 over Turkey, said Mohammad Amirani, the company's managing director, IRNA reported. "By modernizing equipment and advanced systems at the control center, we can sharply increase the capacity to handle international flights and strengthen the country's foreign currency revenues," he said. Amirani, reviewing the company's activities over the past year, highlighted "major infrastructure projects, localization of navigation equipment, upgrading of airport services, and strengthening safety against external threats."

First homegrown civil radar launched

For the first time, Iran has developed and deployed a fully homegrown MSSR civil radar, built in cooperation with Isfahan University of Technology, the Navigation Communications Department, and the Aviation Operations Division, the official said. The system was installed at Abadan Airport, allowing part of Iranian airspace to be monitored with domestically produced technology. Amirani said the achievement was significant given that the aviation sector has long



been a prime target of foreign sanctions, particularly in access to navigation and ground guidance systems. He added that the company has sought to meet essential needs by relying on domestic expertise and knowledge-based firms.

Smart program at 10 int'l airports

Amirani also announced the launch of a smart airport initiative, beginning with 10 of the country's international airports, aimed at optimizing passenger services. The program will later expand to other airports, prioritized by passenger volume. To support the initiative, an ASQ unit has been established to monitor airport service quality, with the goal of improving traveler satisfaction and reducing waiting times.

Tehran, Tunis to revive economic commission, push for permanent flights

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Iran and Tunisia have agreed to resume meetings of their joint economic commission after years of suspension and are working on plans to establish permanent direct flights between the two countries, Iran's ambassador to Tunis said. The decision followed Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's visit to Tunis last Wednesday, during which he met his counterpart, Mohamed Ali Nafti. "Extensive discussions were held on bi-

lateral issues," Ambassador Mirmasoud Hosseinian told ISNA. Direct charter flights between Iran and Tunisia have been launched in recent months, operating twice weekly on Sundays and Wednesdays. With the introduction of a 15-day visa waiver, around 1,000 Iranian tourists are estimated to have traveled to Tunisia during this period, Hosseinian said. He added that both foreign ministers stressed the need to establish a permanent direct route and explore mech-

anisms to make it sustainable. "Political relations between the two countries are currently at a good level, but economic ties are not in a favorable situation, mainly due to geographical distance and a lack of familiarity among traders with each other's capacities," the ambassador noted. He said Tunisia's leading role in olive oil and date production offered promising areas for cooperation with Iran.

Economic commission to reconvene in Tehran
Hosseinian said the two sides



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) meets with his Tunisian counterpart, Mohamed Ali Nafti, in Tunis on September 10, 2025.

● ISNA

agreed that their joint economic commission, dormant for years, would soon be reconvened in Tehran under the leadership of the countries' trade ministers. The foreign ministers also underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation in tourism.

