

# Pezeshkian: Iran will never cave in to excessive demands

## International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday that Iran will never surrender in the face of excessive demands after the UN Security Council voted not to permanently lift sanctions under European pressure. Speaking at a ceremony honoring the 2025 International Science Olympiads medalists, the Iranian president vowed that Iran would overcome any reimposition of sanctions on it through a so-called "snapback" process triggered by the European parties to the 2015 nuclear agreement. "Through the 'snapback' they block the road, but it is the brains and the thoughts that open or build the road," Pezeshkian said. "They cannot stop us. They can strike our Natanz or Fordow (the nuclear facilities attacked by the US and Israel in June), But they are unaware that it is humans who built and will rebuild Natanz," Pezeshkian said.

## Power to change

The Iranian president underlined that, "We will never surrender in the face of excessive demands because we have the power to change the situation." Pezeshkian's remarks came af-

ter a Security Council resolution aimed at halting the reimposition of sanctions on Iran failed after weeks of diplomatic talks. The resolution put forth by South Korea, the current president of the 15-member council, did not garner the support of the nine countries required to halt the series of sanctions from taking effect at the end of the month, as outlined in the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which is known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Four countries – China, Russia, Pakistan and Algeria – supported the effort. The Security Council's move came after Britain, France and Germany launched a 30-day process last month to reimpose sanctions, accusing Tehran of failing to abide by the 2015 deal with world powers. Iran has rejected their claims and says that it is Europe that failed to fulfil its commitments under the deal after the US unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in 2018. The snapback would reimpose an arms embargo, a ban on uranium enrichment and reprocessing, a ban on activities with ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons,

a global asset freeze and travel ban on Iranian individuals and entities.

## Opportunity for dialogue missed

Iran's Ambassador to the UN Amir Saeed Iravani on Friday reacted in the strongest terms to the vote, saying that council "missed the opportunity for dialogue and agreement today." He called the resolution "hasty, unnecessary and unlawful." "This reckless step undermines dialogue without aggression and sets a dangerous precedent," he added. "The E3 (France, Britain, Germany) and the US, in coordination with Israel, are spreading false claims that Iran's nuclear program threatens peace and security."

## 'Unfair pressure'

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi rejected "unfair pressure" on his country in a telephone call Friday with the UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi, saying that it could lead to an escalation of tensions. The foreign ministry also reacted to the UN vote, saying that, "The full responsibility for the consequences of this action... lies with the United States and the three European countries."



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at a ceremony honoring the 2025 International Science Olympiads medalists in the capital Tehran on September 20, 2025.  
● president.ir

The European governments "have not yet shown independence and have followed the unilateral and illegal policies of America," the ministry added. The Russian Foreign Ministry on Saturday slammed the vote and warned of a risk of an "escalation of tensions." "These actions have nothing to do with diplomacy and lead ex-

clusively to a further escalation of tensions surrounding the Iranian nuclear program," the ministry said. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh said in an interview with Al Mayadeen television that the three European countries are looking for an excuse to increase tensions. Khatibzadeh emphasized that

the path of diplomacy is not closed yet, and diplomacy is always a better option compared to escalating tensions. British Ambassador Barbara Woodward said the UK remains committed to a diplomatic solution and is ready for further engagements diplomatically in the next week and beyond to seek to resolve differences.

## UN chief: Gaza experiencing worst level of death, destruction



Palestinians from Gaza City move southwards with their belongings, on the coastal road near the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, on September 19, 2025.  
● EYAD BABA/AFP

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UN chief Antonio Guterres said Gaza is experiencing the "worst level of death and destruction" he has seen in his lifetime and called on the international community not to be "intimidated" by Israel. Guterres spoke to AFP ahead of the UN's signature high-level week at which 10 countries will recognize a Palestinian state, according to France – over fierce Israeli objections. The meeting of more than 140 heads of state and government, which paralyzes a corner of Manhattan for a week each year, will likely be dominated by the future of the Palestinians and the war in Gaza. Israel has reportedly threatened to annex the West Bank if Western nations press ahead with the recognition plan at

the UN gathering. But Guterres said, "We should not feel intimidated by the risk of retaliation." "With or without doing what we are doing, these actions would go on and at least there is a chance to mobilize international community to put pressure for them not to happen," he said. "What we are witnessing in Gaza is horrendous," Guterres said as Israel threatened "unprecedented force" in its ongoing assault on Gaza City. "It is the worst level of death and destruction that I've seen my time as Secretary-General, probably my life and the suffering of the Palestinian people cannot be described – famine, total lack of effective health care, people living without adequate shelters in huge concentration areas," he said. Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has called for annexation of

swaths of the West Bank with an aim to "bury the idea of a Palestinian state" after several countries joined the French push on statehood. But Israel's staunch ally the United States has held back from any criticism of the war in Gaza or vows to annex the West Bank – and excoriated its allies who have vowed to recognize a Palestinian state. At least 61 people were killed on Saturday as Israeli forces continued to bombard the Gaza City. The Palestinian Civil Defense said nearly half of Gaza City's population, or about 450,000 people, have fled the area since Israel launched its major operation there in August. Israel's war on Gaza has killed at least 65,208 people and wounded 166,271 since October 2023. Thousands more are believed to be buried under the rubble.

## Tehran warns of IAEA deal collapse if UN sanctions reinstated

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Iran's deputy foreign minister said the recent Tehran-IAEA agreement reached in the Egyptian capital of Cairo would be terminated if the UN sanctions were reimposed or the so-called snapback mechanism was triggered. Kazem Gharibabadi made the remarks in a phone conversation with IRIB News in response to Europe's move to reinstate the UN Security Council resolutions, despite Iran's maximum cooperation with the European Troika and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in recent days. The UN Security Council on Friday voted against a draft resolution that would have permanently lifted sanctions linked to Iran's nuclear program. Gharibabadi said that although the UN Security Council adopted a resolution challenging Resolution 2231 and the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), by attempting to extend sanctions relief for Iran, the measure was ultimately defeated after failing to secure the necessary votes. Nine members opposed the measure, while Russia, China, Pakistan, and Algeria backed it, and two abstained. As a result, the UN sanctions against Iran will be re-imposed by September 28 if no agreement is reached. "We, China, and Russia have presented our very detailed and legal arguments to the UN Security Council in recent months, and during these detailed arguments, we declared that the actions of these three countries to activate the snapback mechanism are completely illegal," he noted. Iran, on the other hand, "has always believed in diplomacy and interaction, and we made every effort to prevent the actions of European countries through diplomacy," he added. He warned that "if nothing special happens in the field of diplomacy" and the

UN sanctions are reinstated, it would be a logical consequence for the agreement concluded with the IAEA in Cairo to be "completely stopped." On September 9, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi reached an agreement on practical modalities to resume cooperation after a meeting in the Egyptian capital of Cairo. It came after the Iranian Parliament unanimously passed legislation requiring the administration to suspend all cooperation with the IAEA following the Israeli-US aggression that targeted three of the country's nuclear sites in a clear violation of international law and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Elsewhere in his remarks, Gharibabadi affirmed that the sanctions from the Security Council should be taken seriously; however, he contended that they will not add anything to the sanctions regime on Iran.

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