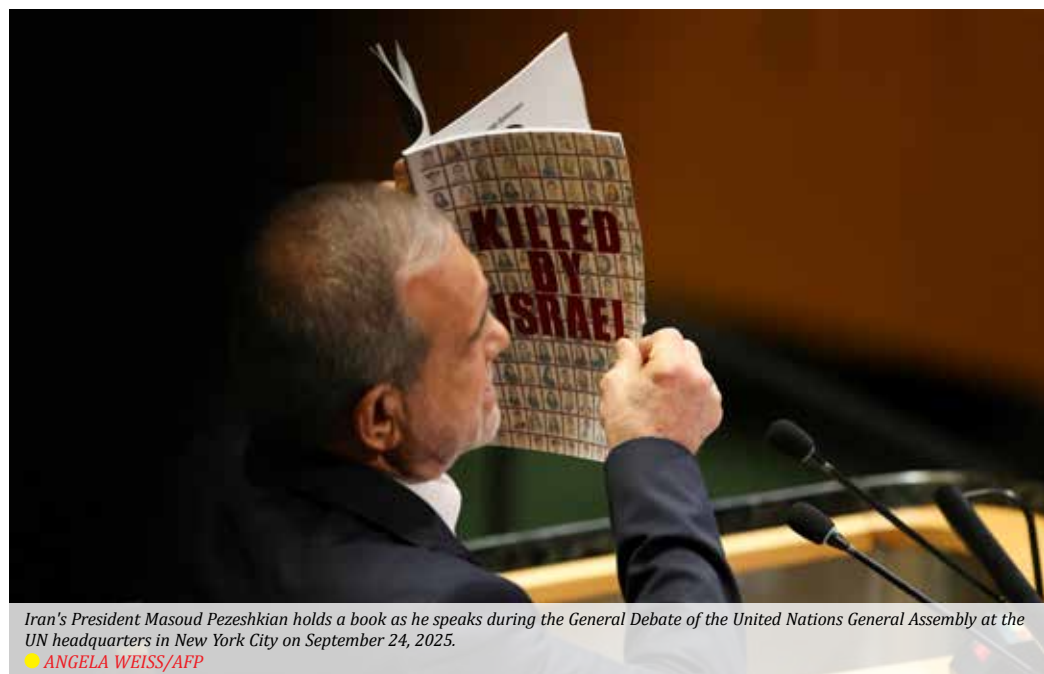


# Pezeshkian: US-Israeli aggression 'grave betrayal of diplomacy'

President warns of bad precedents if world fails to oppose norms violations



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian holds a book as he speaks during the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York City on September 24, 2025.  
● ANGELA WEISS/AFP

## International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called the US-Israeli aggression against Iran in June a "grave betrayal of diplomacy" and the weakening of efforts to establish stability and peace in the West Asia region. He made the remarks during his speech at the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Wednesday.

Standing at the General Assembly rostrum, Pezeshkian showed pictures of people killed in the Israeli military campaign against Iran, which killed nearly 1,100 people. Pezeshkian said that Iran was subjected to a "brutal attack in violation of the fundamental principles of international law" by the Israeli regime and the United States while holding talks with Washington to resolve a decades-old dispute over

its nuclear program.

"The airstrikes by the Zionist regime and the United States on cities, homes, and infrastructure in Iran — at the very time we were taking steps toward diplomatic negotiations — were a grave betrayal of diplomacy and a weakening of efforts to establish stability and peace." Pezeshkian said the strikes killed commanders, women, children, scientists, and national elites, while

also damaging internationally-monitored nuclear facilities.

## Heavy blow to int'l trust

He noted that the strikes constitute "a black record of crimes" carried out under the pretext of preserving regional security, which dealt a heavy blow to international trust and the prospect of peace in the West Asia region. "Assassination of state officials, systematic targeting of journalists, and the killing of individuals solely because of their knowledge and expertise are flagrant violations of human rights and international law," the Iranian president told delegates from around the globe. The Iranian president warned of establishment of bad precedents across the world if countries do not stand up to "these dangerous violations of norms."

## Iran not seeking nukes

The Iranian president also touched upon a dispute with the West over its nuclear program, saying that, "I hereby declare once more before this assembly that Iran has never sought and will never seek to build a nuclear bomb."

"The one who is disturbing peace and stability in the region is Israel, but Iran is the one that gets punished," he said.

Iran has long contended that it is not seeking nuclear weapons and US

intelligence has not concluded that the country has decided to build a nuclear weapon.

But Israel, the United States and European countries have long been skeptical due to the country's advanced nuclear activities, believing that the Islamic Republic could quickly pursue a bomb if it so decided.

Britain, France and Germany have moved to reimpose UN sanctions that had been suspended under a 2015 nuclear deal that was negotiated by the United States and then torn up by US President Donald Trump.

The sanctions are set to go into effect on Saturday. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met Tuesday with his European counterparts, leading to no clear headway other than an agreement to keep talking. Pezeshkian accused the Europeans of bad faith, saying that Iran's lack of cooperation was in response to Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"They falsely presented themselves as parties of good standing to the agreement, and they disparaged Iran's sincere efforts as insufficient," Pezeshkian said.

"All of this was in pursuit of nothing less than the destruction of the very JCPOA which they themselves had once held as a foremost achieve-

ment."

On Tuesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei also rejected Washington's demands over nuclear negotiations, saying that accepting talks under threat is something "no honorable nation would ever do, and no wise statesman would ever endorse."

Ayatollah Khamenei said negotiations with Washington under the current circumstances would bring "no benefit" to Iran and instead inflict "serious and possibly irreparable harms."

Ayatollah Khamenei said the United States is predetermining the outcome of any dialogue, and that Washington's demands amount to dictation rather than negotiation.

"They have announced that the only acceptable result of negotiations is the shutdown of Iran's nuclear activities and enrichment. So, we would sit at the table, and the outcome of the talks would be exactly what they had dictated in advance."

"That is not negotiation," the Leader stated, "that is dictation, that is imposition."

"To negotiate with a party where the result must necessarily be what they want, and what they say, is that negotiation?"

The Leader pointed to recent American calls for Iran to abandon not only long-range but even short-range missiles.

## Iranian FM raps unilateral coercive measures at UNGA

### International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described unilateralism as a serious threat to global peace, security and development, calling for the worldwide promotion of commitment to multilateral cooperation. Araghchi made the statement in an address on Wednesday to the High-Level Meeting of the Global Development Initiative in New York on the sidelines of the 80<sup>th</sup> annual session of the United Nations General Assembly.

He called the meeting both timely and necessary as deep structural inequalities continue to burden developing countries in the global economic, financial and trade systems. Iran's foreign minister underlined that global uncertainties and emerging gaps in political and economic

systems make the initiative more necessary than ever, as it provides a platform for solidarity, cooperation and collective action toward a brighter future.

"Under these circumstances, we must reaffirm our commitment to the principles of multilateral cooperation and reject unilateralism, which poses a grave threat to global peace, security and development," Araghchi said.

The Global Development Initiative can play a prominent role in this regard, by advancing the aspirations of developing countries for a greater role in shaping the global economic order and by creating a favorable international environment for sustainable development, he added.

The top Iranian diplomat also censured the West for adopting "unilateral coercive measures" against

developing countries at a time that the elimination of poverty and food insecurity is their greatest challenge.

## Talks with counterparts

Araghchi also held talks with several foreign officials including Norway's prime minister, his Japanese, Australian and Dutch counterparts to discuss many issues including Iran's nuclear program.

During his meeting with Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Araghchi expressed regret over Canberra's recent decision to downgrade relations with Tehran and its inappropriate treatment of the Iranian ambassador.

The Iranian official rejected "baseless claims and accusations" that led to expulsion of Iranian ambassador from Australia, saying that Tehran expects the governments to act re-



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (Front-R) is seen at the High-Level Meeting of the Global Development Initiative in New York, US, on September 24, 2025.  
● IRNA

sponsibly in their decisions and statements regarding other countries.

Back in August, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese accused Iran of orchestrating two attacks on

Jewish sites in October and December last year, allegations made without presenting evidence.

Then, the Australian government expelled Iranian ambassador and other diplomats.

## Tehran's strategy as ...

Moscow and Beijing share a strategic interest in countering Western pressure, and Tehran can leverage these ties in energy trade, financial transactions, and infrastructure projects. These relationships may not fully offset the economic costs, but they can provide a critical buffer and demonstrate that Iran is far from isolated. Beyond global powers, regional diplomacy will also be indispensable. During previous sanction regimes, Iran relied heavily on trade with neighbors to sustain economic activity. The same approach could again provide essential breathing space. Strengthening ties with states in the Middle East, the Caucasus, and Central Asia offers practical avenues for commerce and supply, reducing the risks of complete economic iso-

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lation. Regional cooperation, therefore, is not only a matter of politics but also a vital tool for economic survival.

Ultimately, the purpose of resilience is not to endure sanctions indefinitely but to prepare for negotiations from a position of strength. If Iran demonstrates that military threats cannot undermine its defenses and that economic warfare cannot destabilize its society, then the logic of coercion weakens. At that point, the possibility of meaningful dialogue with the United States and its allies becomes more realistic. From such a position, Tehran could seek an agreement that balances Western concerns with its own national interests, turning resistance into leverage. The instigation of the snapback

mechanism undoubtedly marks a difficult chapter for Iran, but it is not without opportunities. By reinforcing deterrence, maintaining cooperation with international bodies, drawing on the support of China and Russia, and expanding regional economic ties, Tehran can mitigate the immediate damage and prepare the ground for eventual diplomacy. The task ahead is not only to survive sanctions but to turn the experience into a strategic asset. If Iran succeeds in absorbing the first shocks and restoring economic stability, then, as with military pressure, economic coercion too will lose its power. In that scenario, Tehran may once again enter negotiations not as a weakened party but as a resilient actor capable of shaping the terms of a future settlement.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

