

Iran announces JCPOA termination; blasts UN resolutions revival

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that all provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 regarding the 2015 Iran nuclear deal are to be considered terminated from now on as a ten-year period set out in the resolution came to an end on October 18, 2025. In a statement on the "termination date" of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the ministry said that Iran is no longer bound by restrictions on its nuclear program as the landmark 10-year deal expired, though Tehran reiterated its "commitment to diplomacy."

The 2015 deal — signed in Vienna by Iran, China, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — saw the lifting of international sanctions against the Islamic Republic in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear program. But the pact had already been in tatters after Washington unilaterally withdrew during President Donald Trump's first term, with Iran later pulling back from its commitments in response. The European parties to the deal also failed to fulfill their commitment to the agreement. Several rounds of talks to revive the agreement failed, and in August, the UK, Germany and France triggered the so-called "snapback" process on the pretext of Iran's non-compliance with its obligations, leading to the re-imposition

of the UN sanctions. The move rendered the accord effectively moot.

No more restrictions

From now on, "all of the provisions (of the deal), including the restrictions on the Iranian nuclear program and the related mechanisms are considered terminated," Iran's Foreign Ministry said in its statement. "Iran firmly expresses its commitment to diplomacy," it added. The deal's "termination day" was set for October 18, 2025, exactly 10 years after it was enshrined in the UN's Security Council resolution 2231. The accord capped Iran's uranium enrichment at 3.67 percent in exchange for sanctions relief and provided for strict supervision of its nuclear activities by the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). But Washington unilaterally left the deal in 2018 and reinstated sanctions, after which Tehran began scaling down its commitments under the agreement.

'Irresponsible actions'

In July, Iran also suspended cooperation with the IAEA following an aggression by Israel and the US, with Tehran pointing to the agency's failure to condemn Israeli and US strikes on its nuclear facilities. The unprecedented bombing campaign by Israel and the retaliation by Iran during the 12-day war derailed the latest

negotiations between Tehran and Washington to reach a new nuclear agreement. However, Iran reached a new cooperation agreement with the IAEA in Cairo as a goodwill gesture.

"Iran's efforts to revive the exchanges (with the IAEA) that led to the agreement in Cairo were also sabotaged by the irresponsible actions of the three European countries," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry was referring to the Europeans' activation of the snapback mechanism.

'Null and void' sanctions

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also in a letter on Saturday to Antonio Guterres, the United Nations secretary general, and Vassily Nebenzia, the rotating president of the Security Council, said that the expiration of the 2015 deal renders the sanctions "null and void." He reaffirmed Tehran's position that Resolution 2231 has "definitively expired and terminated" in accordance with its own provisions. Araghchi also decried as "devoid of legal basis" attempts by the three European countries to revive the previously terminated UN sanctions resolutions. "As detailed in the joint letter of the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the People's Republic of China, and the Russian Federation dated 28 August 2025 (A/79/1004-S/2025/546), the European



● SETH WENIG/AP

parties' attempt to invoke the so-called 'notification' is procedurally defective and substantively void," he wrote.

"No measure taken in disregard of resolution 2231 can generate legal obligations for Member States. The Security Council's voting record and the clear positions expressed by its members confirm that the so-called 'notification' has no legal validity. Accordingly, any claim of 'reviving' or 'reinstating' terminated resolutions is void ab initio, lacking legal foundation and incapable of producing a binding effect."

Araghchi emphasized that the procedure pursued by the three European states constitutes a clear abuse of process, contrary to both the letter and spirit of resolution 2231 and the nuclear agreement.

In a Friday post on X, Araghchi also asserted that Iran is answerable only to "the rule of law, not coercion." Upon expiration, the official said, Iran would legally be removed from the Security Council's agenda. The development will allow the Islamic Republic to increase its peaceful nuclear energy activities within the provisions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). "As an NPT signatory, Iran will remain bound solely to its rights and obligations under the Treaty," Araghchi likewise said. "This includes no limits whatsoever on the scale of its nuclear program."

Tehran rejects UK security allegations as 'baseless and irresponsible'



● IRNA

International Desk

Iran strongly rejected security allegations leveled by Britain's domestic security agency, MI5, calling them "baseless and irresponsible." Iran's Embassy in London in a statement on Friday repudiated the assertions made by head of the MI5 Sir Ken McCallum on October 16, which accused Iran of involvement in so-called "deadly plots" and

"cross-border hostile actions." "The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its strong protest to and outright rejection of these unfounded and irresponsible statements," the statement read. "These baseless and irresponsible claims are part of a continuous campaign of distortion aimed at misrepresenting the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and undermining bilateral diplomatic

relations."

It further stated that the claims were made "without credible evidence," and contradict Iran's ongoing commitment to international law, the principle of sovereign equality, as well as promotion of peaceful coexistence and international cooperation.

The statement came after the MI5 chief alleged that UK security forces had thwarted 20 operations linked to Iran on British soil over the past year — a claim Tehran has dismissed as part of an ongoing campaign of misinformation.

The Iranian embassy urged the British government to "refrain from making or escalating baseless accusations" and instead pursue a "responsible and constructive approach based on dialogue and mutual respect" to address shared security concerns through legal and diplomatic channels.

The mission finally reaffirmed Iran's preparedness for dialogue, and its commitment to international norms and peaceful international relations.

Egypt highlights necessity of Iran-US nuclear talks resumption



Steve Witkoff



Rafael Grossi



Abbas Araghchi



Badr Abdelatty

International Desk

Egypt's foreign minister on Saturday stressed the necessity of creating conditions to resume negotiations between Tehran and Washington with the goal of reaching a comprehensive agreement regarding Iran's nuclear program.

According to Egypt's Foreign Ministry, Badr Abdelatty made the remarks in separate phone calls with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi as well as the US Special Envoy for the Middle East Steve Witkoff.

The contacts came as a 10-year nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers, known as the Joint Comprehensive

Plan of Action (JCPOA), expired on Saturday.

Earlier, the Egyptian foreign minister had also, in a phone conversation with Witkoff, reiterated Cairo's positions in support of reducing tensions in the Middle East and the failure of a military solution to Iran's nuclear program and other regional crises, the ministry said in its statement.

The UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses the JCPOA, expired on October 18, 2025. Several rounds of talks between Tehran and Washington, which began in April, to reach a new agreement on Iran's nuclear program failed to yield any result following an aggression by Israel and the US against Iran in June.

Iran should step ...

How do you view the recent border clashes between the Taliban and Pakistan, and what do they reveal about the shifting nature of their relationship?

There is reason for concern as these border clashes can easily escalate into full-fledged war that may draw regional powers like India into the conflict. What the altered nature of relations between the Taliban and Pakistan demonstrate is that nothing in international relations remains the same. This is why tactical alliances should be accompanied with deeper and more strategic ones. The ease with which the Taliban government has switched from reliance on Islamabad to New Delhi suggests that similar somersaults are likely in the future as well, especially once we factor in the Chinese role in Afghanistan.

In your opinion, what are the implications of the Taliban's increasing engagement with India for Pakistan's foreign policy and regional strategy?

Taliban entanglements with India will only serve to heighten the deep distrust and suspicion that informs relations between the Afghan Taliban and the Pakistani establishment. Even if a full-scale war is avoided, the Taliban refusal to concede Pakistan's demands on the TTP will keep relations between the two countries on edge with the possibility of a major conflagration always around the corner.

How might these evolving dynamics affect the overall balance of power in South Asia?

Tensions between Kabul and Islamabad

will be immensely detrimental for regional peace in addition to adversely impacting Afghanistan's transborder trade with both Pakistan and India. The possibility of heightened activities by a Kabul backed TTP will result in air strikes by Pakistan and sour relations even further.

From your perspective, what potential strategic interests or opportunities could Iran pursue amid these regional transformations?

Iran can and should consider playing a mediational role between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban. But this will require Tehran to make a clear decision whether its interests are better served by backing a Taliban-India alliance or a reconfigured Pakistan-Afghanistan alliance.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

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