

In letter to UN chief: Iran, China, Russia affirm termination of UNSC Resolution 2231

International Desk

Iran, China, and Russia in a joint letter to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday affirmed the termination of Security Council Resolution 2231 concerning Iran's nuclear program on October 18, 2025, which marks the end of the 15-member body's consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue.

The three countries said they "affirm that in accordance with operative paragraph 8 of Resolution 2231, all its provisions are terminated after 18 October 2025."

The date, therefore, "marks the end of the Security Council's consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue," the countries' envoys added.

The resolution, which endorsed the historic 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers, mandated suspension of nuclear-related sanctions against the Islamic Republic. Officially known as the Joint Compre-

hensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 deal— signed in Vienna by Iran, China, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — saw the lifting of international sanctions against Iran in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear program.

The United States, though, left the deal and reimposed its sanctions in an illegal and unilateral move in 2018. The US's European allies then succumbed to American pressure, suspending their own trade with Iran, besides betraying a pledge to return Washington to the deal.

The overall Western bid has been focusing on allegations of Iranian nuclear activities' "diversion," claims that have never been verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency, despite its most intrusive inspections to date.

Earlier this year, the European states — namely the UK, France, and Germany — tried their hand at triggering the "snapback" mechanism that led to restoration of the sanctions late last



A staff removes the Iranian flag from the stage after a group picture with foreign ministers and representatives of the United States, Iran, China, Russia, Britain, Germany, France, and the European Union during the Iran nuclear talks at the Vienna International Center on July 14, 2015.

● CARLOS BARRIA/AFP

month.

The letter reminded that the trio had no legal right to have the sanctions restored in light of their own non-commitment to the JCPOA.

"The E3, having themselves ceased to perform their commitments under both the JCPOA and Resolution 2231 and also failing to exhaust the procedures of the Dispute Resolution Mechanism (DRM), lacks the standing to invoke its provisions."

The envoys, meanwhile, noted that the Security Council's adherence to the resolution's expiration date would "contribute to strengthening the authority of the Council and the credibil-



ity of multilateral diplomacy."

The diplomats finally called on all parties to create a favorable atmosphere and conditions for diplomatic efforts. Iran's Foreign Ministry in a separate statement on Saturday said that all provisions of the Resolution 2231 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.

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."

IRGC decries deadly terrorist attacks on Sunni tribal leaders in southeast



National Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in a statement on Sunday strongly condemned recent deadly attacks on the heads of Sunni tribes in the southeastern province of Sistan and Balu-

chestan.

"The unity, brotherhood, and peaceful coexistence of the brave and faithful people of the southeastern region of the country have always been praised by all. The enemies of the country, through their blind and cowardly actions, seek to disrupt this national cohesion," the statement said.

The statement was issued after Mullah Kamal Salahizehi, a well-known Baluch figure in the Sarbaz county of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, was assassinated by terrorist groups on Sunday. "Mercenary groups affiliated with

the Israeli regime, by committing recent crimes and killing a number of Sunni elders and tribal leaders, have once again revealed their anti-Islamic nature," the statement added.

The IRGC underlined that such crimes will never weaken unity of Shias and Sunnis in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

"The perpetrators and commanders of these crimes will soon face the consequences of their shameful actions, and the powerful security and military forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will decisively deliver a fitting response to these savage acts."

Israel launches deadly ...

The US State Department had claimed that Hamas is planning an attack against civilians in Gaza "in grave violation of the cease-fire," and called on the mediating nations to demand that the group uphold its obligations under the peace deal. The cease-fire deal — part of US

Page 1 >

President Donald Trump's plan to end the Gaza war — came into force on October 10. The first phase currently under way has seen the release of all living captives in Gaza as well as the return to Israel of 12 out of 28 of those deceased.

Israel has freed 250 Palestinian prisoners in its jails and 1,718 de-

tainees from Gaza, as well as returning 15 bodies of Palestinians in return for every Israeli captive's remains.

At least 68,000 people have been killed by Israeli attacks in Gaza since October 7, 2023 when Hamas launched a retaliatory operation against the occupied territories.

improved missile defense and decentralized command systems, can make future conflicts more controllable, though also potentially longer and costlier.

If these factors work together in favor of diplomacy and restraint, the region could see a tense but stable period. But if even one of them breaks down, especially in a moment of miscalculation or surprise, the risk of renewed conflict could rise quickly, unraveling any progress toward peace.

Strategic inflection point

The 12-Day War did not spark a fundamental reshaping of the Middle East, but it served as a strategic inflection point. It affirmed Iran's capacity to retaliate and project pow-

er, while simultaneously revealing the limitations of that power and prompting shifts in both doctrine and perception. Arab states and global actors responded with cautious hedging and reinforced mechanisms to prevent escalation, rather than abandoning existing alliances or drastically altering policies.

Meanwhile, the future of Gaza, and Iran's role therein, will remain a critical variable. It may not redefine the regional balance, but it will shape the diplomatic playing field. Ultimately, the region stands at a crossroads: continued investment in diplomacy, crisis control, and economic stability could pave the way for a managed détente. But absent these efforts, the structural drivers of conflict remain intact.

Grossi confident in 'diplomatic solution' to Iran's nuclear issue

International Desk

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi expressed confidence on Sunday that a diplomatic solution will be found to the dispute surrounding Iran's nuclear program.

In a recent interview with the Swiss newspaper Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Grossi said, "Bringing all parties back to the negotiating table can save us from another round of bombings and attacks."

When asked about US President Donald Trump's recent remarks expressing readiness for talks with Iran, Grossi said, "Hearing such statements from President Trump is encouraging. He even mentioned Iran during his speech in the (Israeli parliament) Knesset, saying he believes in a diplomatic path. That was a clear stance — just months after the US and Israeli attacks on Iran."

"We cannot change the violence that has already occurred, but sitting together at the table could prevent another wave of escalation."

Grossi said that the IAEA inspectors have found no evidence suggesting Iran has hidden significant amounts of enriched



Rafael Grossi
● REUTERS

uranium.

"Most of Iran's enriched material is stored at the known facilities in Isfahan and Fordow, and to some extent in Natanz. A small portion may have been moved elsewhere," He claimed.

His remarks came after the US carried out airstrikes on Iran's Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear facilities on June 22. Following the attacks, questions arose over the storage of Iran's enriched uranium. Tehran later confirmed that some of the material remained buried under the debris, and no increase in external radiation was detected by either Iran or the IAEA.

12-Day war ...

Prospects for de-escalation or renewed conflict

Page 1 >

The future of stability in the Middle East depends on a few key, closely connected factors. First, clear communication and crisis-management systems, including defined red lines and reliable channels between adversaries, are crucial to avoiding accidental clashes. Second, domestic politics in certain countries can push leaders toward fast, risky decisions, especially when under pressure. Third, the role of major global powers such as the US, Europe, Russia, and China is critical; their willingness to invest in diplomacy and offer security guarantees can help manage tensions. Finally, advances in military technology, like



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