

# Minister calls for water cooperation among Muslim nations at OIC meeting



Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi (10th L) poses for a photo with fellow OIC Ministers in Charge of Water at the 5th Session of the OIC Conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on October 22, 2025.

● IRNA

### Economy Desk

Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi on Wednesday urged Muslim countries to work together on water management at a ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), calling it both "a technical necessity and a faith-based responsibility toward present and future generations."

Speaking at the 5th Session of the OIC Conference of Ministers in Charge of Water in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Aliabadi said water issues could be a source of competition and conflict, but Islamic civiliza-

tion's history had offered examples of collective wisdom and social participation rooted in faith, justice, and knowledge.

According to IRNA, he called for the revival of traditional water systems such as qanats and roofed underground water cisterns "through science and faith, and within the framework of modern joint policies."

The minister hailed Iran's successful experience in achieving "self-sufficiency and sustainable development in the water sector" in cooperation with regional and neighboring countries.

Aliabadi added that Iranian experts had designed and implemented projects for the transfer and distribution of potable water, the construction of large and medium-sized dams with environmental considerations, and the development of indigenous technologies for water and wastewater treatment, modern irrigation, and water quality monitoring.

"Iran has managed, despite severe and cruel sanctions, to build large dams, hydroelectric power plants, and water and wastewater treatment facilities both domestically and in other countries," he said.

Iran, with its predominantly semi-arid and arid climate, faces water stress and crisis, and the supply of drinking water has now become one of the biggest challenges in many provinces, and cities.

According to statistics, Iran is ranked as the world's third-largest dam-building nation, with around 190 active and under construction dams.

**Shared challenges with neighbors**

Aliabadi noted that Iran and its neighbors faced common challenges, including climate change, declining rainfall, ris-

ing evaporation and pressure on surface and groundwater resources.

"We are striving to move toward convergence rather than competition and confrontation," he said.

He pointed to the fact that Iran had a long and active record in managing trans-boundary rivers and shared water resources, seeking to resolve environmental and water-related issues through cooperation and mutual respect rather than political confrontation.

Aliabadi emphasized the importance of exchanging experiences among Islamic nations in managing water resources in arid and semi-arid regions, applying modern technologies to reduce agricultural water use and distribution losses, managing droughts, floods, and water pollution, and ensuring access to safe drinking water for all.

He also called for joint investment in advanced desalination, treatment, and wastewater recycling technologies that observe environmental safeguards.

The minister proposed the establishment of two new bodies — the council for sustainable water and food security of Islamic countries and the Islamic water innovation center — to promote technology transfer and experience sharing.

## Iran ratifies law to join UN convention against terror financing



● IRNA

### Economy Desk

Iran approved its accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), with President Masoud Pezeshkian signing the law and instructing its implementation by related ministries and organizations, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

The move came just a day before the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary in Paris on October 22-24, where delegates from over 200 jurisdictions would discuss mutual evaluations and global efforts to combat money laundering and terror financing.

In a letter on Tuesday, Pezeshkian signed into law Iran's accession to the international convention and instructed its implementation by the Judiciary, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Intelligence, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, and the Central Bank of Iran.

The Expediency Council, a top body that reviews parliamentary bills for final approval, conditionally gave the go-ahead to Iran's accession to the CFT earlier this month.

Speaking on October 1, spokesman for the council Mohsen Dehnavi the top body introduced an additional condition under which would prioritize its Constitution and domestic laws when complying with the CFT.

Iran is attending the FATF meetings in Paris for first time in six years as it tries to get off a global financial blacklist.

The task force blacklisted Iran in 2020 mainly for not adopting the Palermo Convention and the CFT. After halting debates on the two conventions over concerns they might undermine Iran's financial independence, the Expediency Council approved the Palermo convention in May.

Officials with the Iranian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance say the FATF would start to reconsider its designation of Iran only after the country approves the CFT and that it would do so in its upcoming meetings.

Economic experts say Iran should be removed from FATF's blacklist to be able to maintain its ongoing trade and business relations with countries that reject UN and US sanction policies against Tehran.

## New generation of energy experts needed, Paknejad says ahead of GECF gathering

Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad on Wednesday called for the development of a new generation of energy specialists a day before a meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Doha, Qatar. "Today's developments in the oil and gas industry require training a new generation of specialists familiar with international frameworks and technological advances to prepare for the future of energy," Paknejad told Qatari Energy Minister Saad Al-Kaabi during a bilateral meeting. Paknejad also emphasized expanding cooperation and maintaining constructive engagement in energy matters, IRNA reported. Kaabi welcomed the strengthening of bilateral energy ties and called for deeper collaboration between the two nations. In separate meetings, Paknejad met with his counterparts from Libya, Algeria, and Nigeria, highlighting the importance of leveraging shared capacities and boosting bilateral cooperation across multiple energy fields.

## Iran, China to co-build mini refinery in southwest

Iran and China plan to jointly build a mini oil refinery in the southwestern province of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, part of Tehran's drive to expand domestic refining capacity, Governor General Yadollah Rahmani said on Wednesday.

The refinery, with a processing capacity of 50,000 barrels of crude per day (bpd), will be developed in Bahmai County, an oil-rich region that hosts more than 80 active wells, Rahmani told IRNA following a meeting with Chinese investors.

"This region enjoys a strategic position for investment in the oil, gas and petrochemical sectors," Rahmani said, adding that 25% of Iran's crude oil — mostly destined for

export — was produced in this province, which also ranked second nationwide in gas output.

Iran pumps more than 3.5 million bpd of crude and churns out a daily average of 750 million cubic meters of gas.

The governor said the project would help supply part of Iran's domestic demand for petroleum products while boosting the province's share of refined product exports.

Discussions during the meeting with the Chinese delegation focused on the technical, financial and scheduling details of the project, with both sides agreeing to finalize feasibility studies and break ground in the coming months.

Rahmani said the province

was committed to supporting foreign investors. "Easing administrative procedures for investors is on the agenda," he noted, adding that 71 investment projects had been planned for the province, with a significant number expected to move into the implementation phase soon.

The new joint venture fits into the Oil Ministry's broader plan to promote the construction of small-scale refineries by private and foreign investors, which require less capital but can swiftly increase the country's overall refining capacity.

Iran has ten major refineries with a combined capacity of 2.4 million bpd, producing gasoline, diesel and other petroleum products.



● IRNA

In May, Deputy Oil Minister Mohammad-Sadeq Azimifar announced that Iran aimed to commission new refining projects worth \$3 billion by March 2026 to beef up domestic fuel output and reduce reliance on imports.

Fuel shortages have be-

come a growing concern for the government. The mismatch between production and demand — estimated at over 20 million liters of gasoline per day — has forced Tehran to spend billions of dollars annually on fuel imports since 2021.

## Envoy: 87% of Iran-Russia trade exempt from tariffs



### Economy Desk

Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, said on Wednesday that 87% of trade between the two countries is exempt from bilateral tariffs, urging Iranian provinces, particularly the three Khorasan provinces in northeastern Iran, to take advantage of the opportunity.

Jalali told reporters on the sidelines of the second Provincial Diplomacy Meeting in

Mashhad that trade between Iran and Russia was growing rapidly.

"Trade between the two countries amounted to \$650 million in 2023, the figure climbed to \$1.8 billion last year," he said, according to IRNA, predicting that bilateral trade could reach \$3 billion by the end of 2025 if the current growth continues.

According to the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, the country's trade with Russia

during the first five months of the current Iranian year, which began on March 21, has been on a sharp upward trajectory, with exports approaching the \$1 billion mark — a year-on-year increase of more than 30%.

Also, in another sign of growing economic and trade cooperation, banks in Russia have started processing letters of credit (LC) issued by Iranian banks.