

In joint letter to Grossi:

Iran, Russia, China terminate IAEA
mandate on Tehran's nuclear program

International Desk

Iran, China, and Russia in a joint letter to the UN nuclear agency affirmed the termination of the agency's reporting concerning Iran's nuclear energy program and the expiration of the Security Council Resolution 2231. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, in a post on X on Friday said that ambassadors and permanent representatives of China, Iran and Russia sent the letter to Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi. It came after the three countries' joint letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations and President of the Security Council declaring the termination of Resolution 2231 on October 18, which endorsed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

In the letter to the IAEA chief, he noted, the three countries reaffirmed the "illegal" move by the European trio — Britain, France and Germany — to invoke the so-called snapback mechanism and the expiration of all provisions of Resolution 2231 on October

18, 2025.

"But there is another key point which relates to the end of the mandate of the IAEA Director General's reporting on verification and monitoring under the Resolution 2231 and the implementation of the JCPOA," Gharibabadi emphasized, referring to the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

According to the Iranian diplomat, the letter asserted that in the IAEA, "the implementation of the JCPOA, as well as verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of UNSCR 2231, were enacted by the resolution of the Board of Governors of 15 December 2015 (GOV/2015/72)."

He said, "Operative paragraph 14 of this Resolution unequivocally stipulates that the Board 'decides to remain seized of the matter until ten years after the JCPOA Adoption Day or until the date on which the Director General reports that the Agency has reached the broader conclusion for Iran, whichever is earlier'."

"Consequently, as of 18 October 2025, the related agenda item has been automatically



The photo shows a view of the Arak heavy water reactor, in Iran, on December 23, 2019.

● REUTERS

removed from the agenda of the Board of Governors, and no further action is required in this regard," Gharibabadi pointed out.

End of UN restrictions

On October 18, Tehran declared an end to all UN restrictions on its nuclear program following the expiration of Security Council resolution 2231.

In 2015, Iran and world powers — including France, Britain and Germany — reached an agreement that saw the easing of international sanctions on Tehran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

But the United States unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 and reimposed biting economic sanctions.

Tehran adhered to the deal until Washington's withdrawal, and then began rolling back on its commitments.



The European parties to the deal failed to fulfill their commitments to the agreement. Several rounds of talks to revive the agreement failed, and in August, the UK, Germany and France triggered the "snapback" process on the pretext of Iran's non-compliance

with its obligations, leading to the re-imposition of the UN sanctions.

Iran has rejected the legality of the triggering the snapback of UN sanctions, calling the mechanism "null and void" and a "fabricated" term.

Iran to host second SCO joint
counterterrorism drill in December

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International Desk

Iran is set to host the 2025 Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) second joint counterterrorism exercise in December, according to a senior official with the intergovernmental organization.

Olarbek Sharshiev, Executive Committee Director of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO, announced at a press briefing on Friday that the drill, named "Sahand-Counterterrorism-2025," is scheduled near the northwestern city of Tabriz on December 4.

He added that official invitations and detailed schedules will soon be sent to participating and observer countries.

Given that terrorist threats are often cross-border and affect multiple nations, the large-scale exercise in Iran aims to strengthen member states' operational readiness and coordination in joint counterterrorism efforts.

This will be the second joint counterterrorism exercise among SCO member states since the organization's founding in 1996.

The first, titled "Anti-terrorism Interaction-2024," took place in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region last year and involved live drills and specialized operations, including "the eradication of terrorist groups," according to China's Ministry of Public Security.

"The exercise marks the first time the relevant agencies from all SCO member states have participated in a joint counter-terrorism live drill," the state-run Xinhua news agency reported on July 23, 2024.

The SCO is a Eurasian intergovernmental organization created to promote multilateral security, economic, and political cooperation.

It was founded in 1996 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan with the primary goal of countering terrorism, extremism, and

separatism. Uzbekistan later joined, and the organization was renamed the SCO.

Initially seen as a strategic counterweight to US influence in Central Asia, the SCO has gradually expanded. India and Pakistan became full members in 2017, followed by Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.

The 25th SCO Summit of Heads of State was held on August 31 in Tianjin, China, with leaders from more than 20 countries, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, attending alongside representatives from 10 international organizations.

The SCO's current full members include Iran, Russia, Belarus, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

RATS, a permanent SCO body, coordinates counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and intelligence-gathering activities among member states. It also supports initiatives to combat the "Three Evils": terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism.

The organization aims to eventually establish transnational enforcement capabilities, including SCO police and military forces.

In recent years, RATS has expanded its focus to include narcoterrorism and drug smuggling, which have become major sources of funding for anti-government activities in member states.

Additionally, RATS maintains a database of individuals and organizations that support groups classified as terrorists, separatists, or extremists by SCO members.

Araghchi: Tehran-Washington ties can be
managed despite distrust in US

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the Islamic Republic can manage its relations with the United States, adding that there is no reason to pay any price in this regard despite a lack of trust in the US. Araghchi said in an interview with Dariush Sajjadi, a political US-based analyst, that the Islamic Republic has serious differences in opinion with the US, most of which relate to its domineering behavior.

"As long as the US maintains its domineering nature and as long as the Islamic Republic insists on not yielding to domination, the problem between us will not be resolved." However, he said that if Washington puts aside its hegemonic attitude toward Iran, "We can engage with each other."

Araghchi also pointed to Iran's lack of trust in the US, especially after several rounds of negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, saying that the problem is rooted in "bitter experiences".

"We negotiated once with the Americans, reached an agreement, implemented it honestly; they walked away and the sanctions came back. Again, under the late (Iranian) president Raisi, we negotiated, reached a (nuclear) agreement; the prisoners were freed, our funds in South Korea were released, but they were blocked in Qatar and were never used."

"This year, we entered negotiations; in the middle of the talks, we came under attack, the US backed the (Israel) aggression, and then joined it. In New York, there was an opportunity for negotiation; they had ut-



The photo grab shows Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) who speaks in an interview with political analyst Dariush Sajjadi.

terly unreasonable and illogical demands — for instance, that we hand over all our enriched materials (uranium) while they would just extend snapback mechanism for six months. What rational person would accept that?" the Iranian foreign minister said. Iran has repeatedly said that if the US is ready to negotiate from an equal footing, with a sincere approach, for an agreement based on mutual respect, "We have never abandoned diplomacy," Araghchi said.

He underlined that Iran will not back down from the rights of the Iranian people, nor will put up with domination and coercion against the Iranians.

Relations between the two countries severed following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979. However, they have held several negotiations in more than two decades to resolve a dispute over Iran's nuclear activities. But the negotiations have failed to yield no result so far due to the West, especially the US, excessive demands in the talks.

Israel's 'chronic impunity' must end after ICJ opinion on Palestine: *FM spox*

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei called for an end to the "chronic impunity" granted to Israel by its supporters and apologists, following a new International Court of Justice (ICJ) opinion that condemns the regime's violations of international humanitarian law. The ICJ issued a legal opinion on October 22, stating that Israel, as an occupying power, is obligated to work with UN agencies to facilitate humanitarian aid in Gaza. At the same time, Israel was "also under a negative obligation not to impede the provision of these supplies," the court

said.

In a post on X on Saturday, Baghaei said the ICJ's opinion once again exposes "the undeniable truth that the Israeli regime continues to be the tremendous violator of each and every norm of international humanitarian law."

He noted that the court reaffirmed Israel's obligation to ensure the basic needs of Palestinians living under its occupation, including supplies essential for their survival, and stressed that the regime must not obstruct the provision of such supplies.

The ICJ, he added, has recalled the prohibition under international law against

using starvation as a method of warfare. Baghaei also referred to the court's previous opinion, which reaffirmed that the occupation of Palestinian lands is "unlawful" and must end.

He said the Israeli regime has consistently defied these principles and is denounced by both the ICJ and the International Criminal Court (ICC) for committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Gaza.

In July 2024, the ICJ released another advisory opinion declaring that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is "unlawful" and should be terminated without delay.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

