

# Pezeshkian: ECO economic success hinges on 'solid frameworks'

## International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday that success in economic cooperation among ECO member states requires common solid and stable frameworks and platforms. Addressing the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting in Tehran, the Iranian president called the organization the heir to decades of efforts, synergy, and practice of its members for economic convergence. He urged the countries of Central Asia, the Caucasus, South Asia, West Asia, and the Persian Gulf, including the ECO member states, "to establish and implement a coherent, endogenously stable and development-oriented security architecture." "Success in regional economic cooperation requires, among other things, solid, predictable, stable, and resilient common frameworks and platforms,"

Pezeshkian added.

Founded in 1985 by Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, the ECO has since expanded to include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Today, it serves as a major platform for regional economic integration.

Elsewhere in his speech, President Pezeshkian stated that the nations of the region are a "valuable platform for dialogue, exchange of experiences, and synergy in all fields."

One of the unfinished tasks in ECO, he said, "is the creation of an ECO police force called ECOPOL, the process of which has not yet been finalized."

According to the president, the ECO region is "one of the few regions in the world that does not have a joint police force."

"This gap, in addition to intra-regional vulnerabilities, has prevented the optimal use of cooperation with other



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) attends the fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting in Tehran on October 28, 2025.

● president.ir

regional police forces and international police," he said.

"Our region and surrounding areas have not been immune to foreign attacks," he said, adding that the largest foreign intervention in contemporary history has taken place in this region. Referring to the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Pezeshkian lamented that the "largest occupation of the century" continues near our region after about 8 decades.

"The most heinous genocide and crime against humanity in the world has occurred in the West Asia region and in Gaza by the occupying regime in the



last two years," he added. The president warned that, "There is a great thirst among the international ex-

tremists and norm-breakers for presence and intervention in our region and our peripheral regions."

## Iran says committed to NPT, works with IAEA under own law



Esmail Baqaei  
● IRNA

## International Desk

Iran remains a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and works with the UN nuclear agency in accordance with a law passed by the Parliament despite suspension of cooperation, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Tuesday. During his weekly presser Baqaei said that Tehran's cooperation

with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would be regulated by the law passed by the Iranian Parliament. The legislation has required suspension of all cooperation with the nuclear agency following an unprovoked Israeli-US war on Iran in June, which used an earlier IAEA Board of Governors' resolution as a pretext. It has conditioned the resumption of cooperation on ensuring

the safety and security of the country's nuclear facilities and scientists.

The law has also demanded respect for Iran's right to peaceful enrichment activities inside the country's soil.

Citing the refueling of the Bushehr nuclear power plant and the monitoring of the Tehran research reactor's performance, Baqaei said that some aspects of Iran's cooperation with the UN agency were "routine collaborations" that served the country's national interests.

Back in June, Israel launched an aggression against Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed over 1000 people, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians.

The United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law.

Tehran accused the IAEA of effectively paving the way for the Israel-US attacks with a report on May 31 that led the 35-nation Board of Governors to declare Iran in breach of its non-proliferation obligations.

## FM: JCPOA not expired notwithstanding Resolution 2231 termination



Abbas Araghchi  
● TASNIM

## National Desk

Iran's foreign minister said that despite the termination of the United Nations' Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal, the agreement has not expired and the Islamic Republic has yet to decide for withdrawal.

Abbas Araghchi made the remarks in a meeting with the members of Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee.

Asked by a lawmaker why Iran has not officially declared the end of the nuclear deal, Araghchi said that since the deal recognizes Iran's right to enrich uranium and there are issues in the agreement that are beneficial to Iran, "We decided to remain as a member of the agreement."

Araghchi added that the deal is still

considered valid by the country's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), which is tasked to decide on the issue. Meanwhile, other parties to the deal, namely China, Russia, France, Britain and Germany, have not withdrawn from the deal despite the United States withdrawal from the agreement in 2018, which is officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Araghchi added.

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

But the US unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 and reimposed draconian 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 also 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 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 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.

## Iran demands \$170m from owner of seized Israel-linked ship



● IRNA

## International Desk

Iran has demanded a \$170 million fine from the owner of a cargo ship that it seized in the Persian Gulf last year and accused him of "financing terrorism," a judicial official said Tuesday. Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards

Corps (IRGC) intercepted the MSC Aries in April of 2024 and detained its 25 international crew members.

The MSC Aries, owned by Zodiac Maritime, a company linked to Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer, was flying the Portuguese flag at the time of its capture. Iranian judiciary spokesperson

Asghar Jahangir said charges had been filed and the case was before the courts, though no date had been set for a trial.

"A fine of \$170 million has been demanded against its owner, of Israeli origin, accused of financing terrorism," Jahangir said, according to ISNA.

At least some of the crew were later freed.

Jahangir said the ship, excluding its cargo, was valued at \$170 million and said that Ofer – an Israeli billionaire and shipping magnate – was an "influential figure" within the Israeli regime.

The seizure of the ship came amid the Islamic Republic's pledges of retaliation against the regime's deadly aggression against the Iranian soil, including its July 2024 assassination of the former Political Bureau chief of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, and Tel Aviv's atrocities against other regional territories.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

## CARTOON

