

Egypt's mediation efforts to resume Iran-IAEA cooperation

Araghchi says Tehran ready for talks 'free from threats, intimidation'



▶ Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty (c) meets with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi (l) and Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi in Cairo on September 9, 2025.
● AFP

International Desk

Egypt's foreign minister once again called his Iranian counterpart and the UN nuclear agency's chief in less than two weeks in an effort to help resumption of cooperation between Tehran and the watchdog. Badr Abdelatty emphasized the impor-

ance of continuing of talks between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the framework of an agreement signed between the two sides in Cairo on September 9.

According to Egypt's Foreign Ministry, the talks focused on reducing regional tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear ac-

tivities.

Talks between the Egyptian top diplomat, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and the IAEA chief Rafael Grossi was the second contact between the three officials after the expiration of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal on October 18.

Iran, China and Russia in a joint letter to Grossi have stated that with the expiration of Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal, the IAEA head's mandate to report on the verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear activities has come to an end.

Iran suspended cooperation with the UN agency following Israeli and US attacks

on Iranian nuclear facilities in June.

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

However, Iran reached a new agreement with the IAEA in Egypt in September as a goodwill gesture to prevent the return of international sanctions against Iran.

But, with the return of sanctions against Iran and the termination of the UN Resolution 2231, Tehran sees no reason to resume cooperation with the IAEA as before.

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 Wash-

ington's withdrawal, and then began rolling back on its commitments.

The European parties to the deal also failed to fulfill their commitment to the agreement. Several rounds of talks between Tehran and the US 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.

Despite the failure of talks, Iran has repeatedly announced its readiness for reaching a new agreement based on mutual interests.

Iran's foreign minister said on Thursday that Iran has never had any problem with negotiations, "but negotiating is different from dictating, ordering, and bullying".

"Whenever the negotiating parties are ready to engage from an equal footing and to reach an agreement based on mutual — not one-sided — interests, and free from threats and intimidation, the Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready."

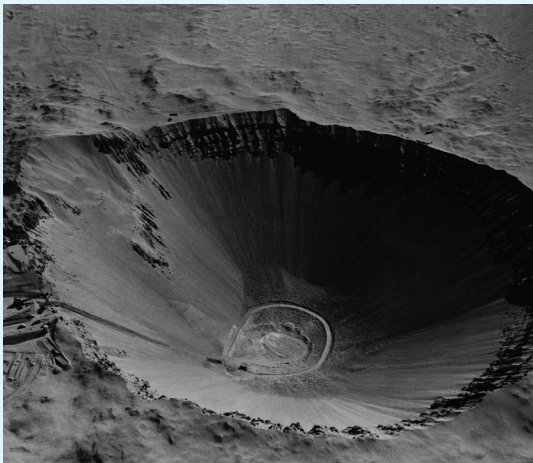
FM: US resumption of nuke tests 'regressive, irresponsible'

International Desk

Iran's foreign minister condemned US plan to resume nuclear arms testing as "regressive and irresponsible," calling the move a serious threat to international peace and security.

"Having rebranded its 'Department of Defense' as the 'Department of War', a nuclear-armed bully is resuming testing of atomic weapons. The same bully has been demonizing Iran's peaceful nuclear program and threatening further strikes on our safeguarded nuclear facilities, all in blatant violation of international law," Abbas Araghchi said in a post on X.

"The (US) announcement of a resumption of nuclear tests is a regressive and irresponsible move and a serious threat to international peace and security," he added. The Iranian official condemned the US for its longstanding criti-



▶ A crater left behind after a 100-kiloton thermonuclear bomb test at the Atomic Energy Commission's Nevada Test Site in July 1962.
● GETTY IMAGES

cism of Iran's peaceful nuclear program while simultaneously resuming its own atomic weapons tests, actions he says violate international law.

"Make no mistake: The US is the World's Most Dangerous Proliferation Risk," Araghchi stated.

The United States has long accused Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons and in June bombed Iran's facilities in violation of international law.

Araghchi further urged the global community to unite in holding the US accountable for normalizing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

US President Donald Trump on Thursday ordered the US military to immediately restart the process for testing nuclear weapons after a halt of 33 years, a move that appeared to be a message to rival nuclear powers China and Russia.

Trump made the sur-

prise announcement on Truth Social while aboard his Marine One helicopter flying to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping for a trade-negotiating session in Busan, South Korea.

"Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately," Trump posted.

"Russia is second, and China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years."

It was not immediately clear whether Trump was referring to nuclear-explosive testing, which would be carried out by the National Nuclear Security Administration, or flight testing of nuclear-capable missiles. No nuclear power — other than North Korea most recently in 2017 — has carried out explosive nuclear testing in over 25 years.

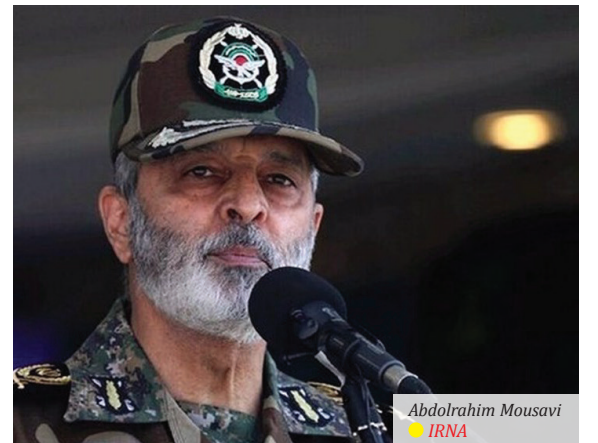
Top cmdr. calls passive defense 'strategic necessity' after 12-day war

Iran's top commander declared that integrating passive defense into national planning is a "strategic necessity" and a "legal and national obligation," directly referencing the lessons learned from a recent 12-day war with the Israeli regime, as reported by Press TV.

In a message marking passive defense days on Thursday, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi underscored that given the lessons of the 12-day war, "establishing the principles of passive defense in vital infrastructure is not only a strategic necessity but also a legal and national obligation." The realization of this important matter, he said, "will pave the way for enhancing national resilience and ensuring sustainability."

He noted that the passive defense is the "most strategic, scientific, and peaceful form of national defense."

According to the top general, it is a critical shield against a modern spectrum of threats, in-



▶ Abdolrahim Mousavi
● IRNA

cluding cyber, biological, chemical, and hybrid warfare, by relying on the core principles of "forecasting, prevention, and preemption." General Mousavi highlighted that the historical experiences of Iran, particularly during the Iran-Iraq War have long proven the necessity of this approach.

The recent 12-day imposed war once again "showed that threats can emerge in complex and combined forms, with speed and intensity; and only nations that have resilient infrastructure, general preparedness, and national cohesion will have the ability to

withstand and maintain stability," he added.

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, 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.

On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the US, managed to impose a halt to the terrorist assault.

Deputy FM decries nuclear negotiations with set outcomes as 'meaningless'

International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht-e Ravanchi said on Friday that any negotiation whose outcome is predetermined is "meaningless," adding that the United States shows no readiness to engage in talks on equal footing.

Takht-e Ravanchi made the remarks in a press conference after his one-day trip to Oman, where he said Tehran and Muscat exchanged their views on Iran's peaceful nuclear program and the Islamic Republic expressed its "clear position" on the issue.

The senior diplomat stated that the US government's unwillingness to negotiate on an equal footing compels Iran to see no justification for continuing the talks under the current circumstances.

He stressed that any negotiation process must lead to balanced outcomes for both sides, stressing that "negotiations

whose results are predetermined are meaningless."

In a post on his X account on Friday, Takht-e Ravanchi also said he held talks with Omani officials on bilateral, regional, and international issues during his trip to the Persian Gulf country.

Takht-e Ravanchi described his trip to the neighboring country as "fruitful," saying that he held meetings with the Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi and his deputy, Khalifa al-Harthi.

"We highly value our regular consultations with our brothers in Oman, and Muscat is a trustworthy neighbor and a key partner," the Iranian official said.

Takht-e Ravanchi also held separate meetings with spokesman for the Yemen's Ansarullah movement Mohammed Abdul Salam as well as UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg.

The visit to Oman came less than a week after the Omani Minister of Interior Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal al-Busaidi visited



▶ Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht-e Ravanchi (l) meets Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi (c) in Muscat, Oman, on October 30, 2025.
● IRNA

Iran.

During his visit to Tehran, the Omani official held several meetings with Iranian officials including President Masoud Pezeshkian and Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani.

Pezeshkian told the Omani official that unity among Muslim nations is essential for safeguarding their collective interests and security, as well as deterring foreign aggression.

Pointing to the deep-rooted and cordial relations between Iran and Oman, he said interactions have always been based on mutual respect and goodwill.



The two countries have always supported each other through the ups and downs of regional developments, the president said.

He hailed Oman's "constructive" role in regional developments, particularly in the context of mediation and hosting negotiations between Iran and the United States, which reflects "wise and peaceful performance" of the Omani authorities.