

Any future nuclear talks possible only if US shed its illusions: *Deputy FM*

International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh on Tuesday underlined that any future nuclear talks with the United States will only proceed "once the US shed its illusions." Addressing the 12th Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate (ADSD), Khatibzadeh said Iran will never compromise on issues related to its national security, adding that no country in the world would do so. "If the other side seeks to achieve through diplomacy what it failed to obtain through military aggression, Iran's answer is No." The United States and its European allies have repeatedly called for any future agreement on Iran's nuclear activities to include its ballistic missile program as well. Tehran has consistently rejected that demand, saying its military capabilities

are non-negotiable. Tehran and Washington held five rounds of nuclear talks prior to a 12-day aggression by the Israeli regime against Iran in June, which derailed the negotiations. Washington later joined the aggression by striking key Iranian nuclear sites. However, Iran's missile attacks on Israel and the US military base in Qatar forced them to call for a ceasefire. Since then, the US has repeatedly said that it is ready to hold new talks with Iran. In October, US President Donald Trump said his country was prepared to make a deal with Iran when Tehran was ready to do so, adding, "The hand of friendship and cooperation (with Iran) is open." In response to a question on Iran's conditions for negotiations with the West, Khatibzadeh said, "There are numerous channels, but the messages

coming through are less reliable. At times, we receive excessive demands from different channels, and Iran's response is a definite 'No.'" Khatibzadeh also said Washington was sending Tehran contradictory messages about nuclear talks through third countries. But he said by striking Iran and its subsequent moves, the US has done everything in its power to make any "meaningful dialogue" impossible. "If the other side is committed to diplomacy, mutual engagement, compromise, and dialogue based on equal footing, then diplomacy makes sense; otherwise, it's impossible," Khatibzadeh said. Major gaps also remain between the two sides over the issue of uranium enrichment on Iranian soil, which the US wants to cut to zero, a demand Tehran has rejected.



Expressing pride in Iran's fully indigenous nuclear program, Khatibzadeh reaffirmed Teh-

ran's stance, saying that Iran is not seeking to build or acquire a nuclear weapon and stands

ready to work with the international community to ensure transparency in this regard.

Iraqis vote in parliamentary elections rife with political rivalries

International Desk

Iraqis cast their ballots on Tuesday in parliamentary elections marked by a boycott by a major political bloc. A total of 8,703 polling stations were open across the country for the general election. Members of the security forces and displaced people living in camps cast their ballots in early voting on Sunday. Only 21.4 million out of a total of 32 million eligible voters updated their information and obtained voter cards ahead of the polling, a decrease from the last parliamentary election in 2021, when about 24 million voters registered. More than 7,740 candidates, nearly a third of them women and only 75 independents, are standing under an electoral law that many believe favors larger parties. Polling stations were expected to close at 6:00 pm (1500 GMT), with preliminary results expected within 24 hours of closing. Just minutes after the polls opened, several senior politicians voted at the luxurious Al-Rasheed hotel in the capital, Baghdad. Prime Minister Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, who is running for a second term, arrived at a polling station in Baghdad to cast his vote, along with his mother. The election "asserts the principle of peaceful transfer of power" and "the people's commitment to this democratic practice," Sudani said. Sudani is likely to score a significant win. He rose to power in 2022 with

the backing of the Coordination Framework, a ruling alliance of Shia parties and factions. But with a single party or list unlikely to achieve an outright majority, he must win the support of whichever coalition can secure enough allies to become the largest bloc. Although they run separately, Shia parties within the Coordination Framework are expected to reunite after elections and pick the next premier.

Sadrist Movement boycotts polls

The popular Sadrist Movement, led by influential cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, boycotted the polls. Sadr accused those in power of being "corrupt" and unwilling to reform. A close associate quoted him as urging his followers to stay home and treat election day as a "family day." Al-Sadr's bloc won the largest number of seats in the 2021 election but later withdrew after failed negotiations over forming a government, amid a standoff with rival parties. He has since boycotted the political system.

Corruption allegations

Ahead of the election, there were widespread allegations of corruption and vote-buying. Last week, security services arrested 46 people accused of illegally buying and selling voter cards in sting operations in several provinces, and some 1,841 cards in their possession were seized. Many have lost hope that elections



An Iraqi woman walks towards a voting booth at a polling station in Nasiriyah in Iraq's southern Dhi Qar Province on November 11, 2025 during Iraq's parliamentary elections.

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can bring meaningful change to their daily lives and see the vote as a sham that only benefits political elites and regional powers. But for Mohammed Mehdi, a public servant in his thirties, voting is a right and a means to achieve change. While he does not blame those who chose to boycott, he said after casting his vote in Baghdad that politicians have spent heavily to win votes, "proving my vote is valuable – so I will use it." The current parliament began its term on January 9, 2022, and will last four years, ending on January 8, 2026. By convention in post-invasion Iraq, a Shia Muslim holds the powerful post of prime minister and a Sunni that of parliament speaker, while the largely ceremonial presidency goes to a Kurd. In the autonomous Kurdistan region, the rivalry between the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan remains fierce.

Envoy: Iran joins int'l patent, trademark classification pacts

International Desk

Ali Bahreini, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva, said the Islamic Republic has joined the Vienna and Strasbourg Agreements on intellectual property (IP) classification, becoming a party to all international treaties in the field. Bahreini unveiled the documents to join the agreements during a meeting with Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization Daren Tang on Monday. The two officials highlighted the pivotal role of intellectual property in national and global development and reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation. The Strasbourg Agreement was adopted in 1971, establishing the International Patent Classification (IPC) system. The IPC provides a uniform



way to categorize inventions and technical information in patent documents, making it easier for countries to search, compare, and share patent data. The Vienna Agreement was adopted two years later. It created the Vienna Classification system for trademarks, providing a standardized way to categorize the figurative elements, such as logos and symbols, used in trademarks. The system helps national and international

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva Ali Bahreini (L) and Director General World of Intellectual Property Organization Daren Tang hold a document as they pose for photo in Geneva on November 10, 2025.

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trademark offices organize, search, and compare trademark data more efficiently, promoting consistency and cooperation in global intellectual property management.

Iran's legal path ...

While the aggression would be assessed against Customary International Law (specifically the prohibition on the use of force), such claims face an insurmountable jurisdictional hurdle as CIL breaches cannot unilaterally confer jurisdiction upon the ICJ.

What specific expectations can Iran reasonably hold of the United Nations Security Council in terms of accountability and concrete action?

Legally, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and

security. Iran could request an urgent meeting to present evidence of the unlawful attack and seek a resolution condemning the act, demanding guarantees of non-recurrence. It could also call for an independent fact-finding mission under the council's or secretary-general's auspices, or even propose targeted measures against individuals responsible for authorizing the strike. Realistically, however, given the United States' veto power as a permanent member (P5), the council is highly unlikely to adopt any resolution adverse to Washington's interests. Therefore, Iran's reasonable expectation would be limited

to placing the matter on record, compelling public debate, and using the Security Council as a platform for international advocacy rather than a mechanism for coercive enforcement. In parallel, Iran could appeal to the UN General Assembly for moral and political support, potentially invoking the Uniting for Peace resolution (GA Res. 377(V)), allowing the assembly to recommend collective measures when the council is paralyzed by veto. While such outcomes are non-binding, they reinforce Iran's legal narrative and contribute to the progressive development of international accountability norms.



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