

'Another major mistake': Iran decries West's new anti-Tehran resolution at IAEA



General view of an IAEA meeting
● China's Permanent Mission to UN

International Desk

Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Vienna called the Western countries' plan to introduce a resolution against

Iran at the UN atomic agency's Board of Governors "another major mistake," and a new "deliberate attempt to politicize" the board. In a post on X, the mission said

the United States, together with Britain, France, and Germany are preparing to introduce a resolution against Iran over its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA) at the forthcoming event. "These confrontational tactics are misguided and will yield no advantage whatsoever to them. Should this draft resolution be adopted, it will unavoidably and adversely affect the positive course of cooperation between Iran and the IAEA," the post read. Iran's Ambassador to the IAEA Reza Najafi also reacted to the resolution on Saturday, saying that it will not change Iran's status of safeguards implementation. The upcoming Board of Governors meeting is scheduled to take place from November 19 to 21 at the agency's headquarters in Vienna. Najafi argued that Washington and the three European countries — known as the E3 — are once again attempting to "exploit international mechanisms to impose their illogical and coercive positions on the Iranian

people." "Forcing the [IAEA] Director General to report on the basis of expired UN Security Council resolutions is not only entirely unlawful and unjustified, but in practice, will also add to the existing complexities and deliver yet another blow to diplomacy," the Iranian envoy said. Najafi noted that the push by the US and the E3 is unlikely to change the existing state of safeguards implementation in Iran, which has been affected by the 12-day US-Israeli war of aggression against the Islamic Republic in June. Najafi called on all member states of the BoG to oppose what he described as destructive unilateral actions of the US and its European partners. The Iranian envoy also underscored Iran's right to take necessary actions in retaliation to any unlawful or unwarranted measures.

Meanwhile, Iran's Permanent Ambassador to the UN Amir Saeid Iravani on Friday reaffirmed Iran's long-standing commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), rejecting Western allegations regarding Iran's compliance. Iravani said the United States and the European trio had repeatedly echoed "Israeli regime fabrications" concerning Iran's peaceful nuclear energy program, while ignoring Israel's own nuclear arsenal and refusal to submit to international oversight. He stressed that, in addition to fully complying with the NPT and its safeguards obligations, Iran has never violated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a 2015 nuclear agreement between the Islamic Republic and world powers, including the United States and the E3.

Iran warns of US escalation fallout in Caribbean

Maduro urges Trump to avoid Afghanistan-style 'forever war'



The Navy warship USS Sampson docked at the Amador International Cruise Terminal in Panama City in September.
● MARTIN BERNETTI/GETTY IMAGES

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei warned of the consequences of the recent US military buildup in the Caribbean region and Latin America for the international peace and security. In a statement on Saturday, Baqaei called for respect for Venezuela's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, saying that the US threats to use force against Venezuela's legally elected government are a blatant violation of international law. He also noted that such actions constitute a serious breach of the principles of the UN Charter. Since August, the US has deployed a fleet of vessels and thousands of troops to the Caribbean under the pretext of combating Latin American drug cartels. The US says it has carried out at

least 20 strikes against alleged drug trafficking vessels in the Caribbean and the Pacific, killing 80 people. Baqaei slammed US attacks as instances of unlawful and extrajudicial killings. The spokesman underlined the need to end the misuse of counter-narcotics operations as a pretext for violating Venezuela's sovereignty and territorial integrity. There are reports that US plans for military action against Venezuela.

Deliberations at White House US President Donald Trump said Friday night that he has "sort of made up my mind" about how he will proceed with the possibility of military action in Venezuela, following a second consecutive day of deliberations at the White House that included top national security advisers, the Washington Post reported. The comments came as US forces in the region awaited possible attack

orders, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity. Joining Trump in deliberations on Friday were Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Dan Caine, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller. Any strike on Venezuelan territory would upend Trump's frequent promises of avoiding new conflicts and betray promises made to Congress in recent weeks that no active preparations were underway for such an attack.

Afghanistan-style 'forever war'

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro urged Donald Trump not to lead the US into an Afghanistan-style "forever war." Speaking to CNN outside the Miraflores presidential palace in Venezuela's capital, Caracas, Maduro called on Trump to make peace, not war, after the world's largest aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R Ford, arrived in the region. "No more forever wars. No more unjust wars. No more Libya. No more Afghanistan. Long live peace," Maduro, 62, declared late on Thursday.

IRGC impounds 'unauthorized cargo' tanker off southern coast



Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker Talara

National Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced in a statement on Saturday that its forces had seized an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf for carrying "unauthorized cargo." "Yesterday morning at 7:30, after a judicial authority ordered the seizure of the cargo of an oil tanker with the trade name Talara and the flag of the Marshall Islands, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps rapid reaction units of the naval forces monitored its movements and intercepted and seized it," the statement said. "The tanker was found to be in violation of the law by carrying unauthorized cargo," the statement continued, adding that it "was carrying 30,000 tons of petrochemical cargo and was heading to Singapore." The IRGC said the "operation was carried out in line with legal duties and for the protection of the national interests and resources of the

Islamic Republic of Iran." The vessel had departed from Ajman in the United Arab Emirates and was heading south through the Strait of Hormuz when it was approached by three small boats, after which it made a "sudden course deviation," maritime security company Ambrey said. The US Navy had earlier said it was "actively monitoring the situation." "Commercial vessels are entitled to largely unimpeded rights of navigation and commerce on the high seas," said the US 5th Fleet, which patrols the region. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for global oil and liquefied natural gas, has previously been the scene of similar incidents. In May 2022, IRGC forces seized two Greek tankers and held them until November of that year for violations. They also took the Portuguese-flagged cargo ship MSC Aries in the Strait of Hormuz in April 2024.

West targets Iran's ...

At present, Iran's most important bargaining tool is providing or withholding access to the 400-plus kilograms of 60% enriched uranium reportedly buried under rubble. The agency, and specifically the United States, Europe, and of course Israel, place great importance on clarifying the fate of this material. In fact, the main goal of the resolution is to push Iran to cooperate on granting access to this highly enriched uranium.

Can Russia and China actually prevent possible Western measures against Iran, or is their support largely symbolic?

What Russia and China can realistically do is prevent a resolution from being adopted by consensus. Also, they maintain limited nuclear cooperation with Iran, for example, Russia's work on the Bushehr power plant, which is exempt from sanctions and acceptable to the agency. However, within the Board of Governors,

Moscow and Beijing's hands are more tied than in the UN Security Council. The board does not grant veto power to the five permanent Security Council members or to NPT nuclear-weapon states. Compared with the snapback mechanism, their ability to hold off US initiatives is therefore more limited. They could, for instance, propose a counter-resolution or rally Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) states to their side. But these are political and diplomatic steps rather than concrete mechanisms for blocking Western action. Based on past experience, China and Russia cannot prevent a resolution from passing if it goes to a vote.

Given Iran's coordination meetings with Russia, China, and the IAEA director general, can it be said that Tehran is seeking to build a support bloc against Western pressure? How effective could this approach be? Yes, Iran is indeed trying to build up a

support bloc. In previous years as well, Tehran used the Non-Aligned Movement and countries of the Global South to speak out in both the board and the Security Council and to push back against pressure. But the reality is that the number and weight of the opposing bloc, the United States and Europe, remain greater. As the snapback episode demonstrated, their influence in both the Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors is stronger. What Iran can do is call into question the credibility of such resolutions. However, as mentioned earlier, even if adopted, this resolution is unlikely to lead to Iran's file being referred to the Security Council. For that reason, Tehran is unlikely to show a sharp reaction. At the same time, Iran may still refuse to grant access to the 60% enriched uranium, postponing such access until further agreements are reached with the United States, Europe, and the agency.

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