

# Iran favors diplomacy to resolve nuclear standoff: *Araghchi*

US not eager to engage in 'equal and fair' talks despite new requests



Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi talks with reporters on the sidelines of an international conference titled "International Law Under Attack: Aggression and Defense" in Tehran on November 16, 2025.

● MIZAN

## International Desk

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday that Iran's nuclear issue has no military solution and should be resolved through diplomacy but the United States' current behavior does not reflect a willingness to engage in "equal and fair" negotiations. "Requests for negotiations have now resumed, which is natural, since they (Israel and the US) did not

achieve their goals regarding Iran's nuclear program through military action. This is exactly what we have always said. Iran's nuclear issue has no military solution. They tried it and realized it is not the right path," Abbas Araghchi told an international conference, entitled "International Law Under Attack: Aggression and Defense", which was held in Tehran, according to IRNA. Back in June, Israel waged a war on Iran amid nuclear talks with the

US, during which more than 1,000 Iranians including ordinary people, military commanders and nuclear scientists were killed. The US later joined the aggression by targeting Iran's nuclear facilities. Since then, attempts at renewing talks on Tehran's nuclear program have failed due to the US's excessive demands. Araghchi said that the first step in diplomacy is to recognize that "dialogue differs from dictation and

coercion," reiterating that negotiations should be grounded in reason and logic and conducted seriously. However, he said Washington's current approach toward Tehran does not indicate any readiness for "equal and fair" talks.

## Diplomacy first victim of 12-day war

The top diplomat said Israel launched the assault before the sixth round of Iran-US nuclear talks in Muscat, against the possibility of reaching an agreement through peaceful means. "The truth is that when the Israeli regime attacked Iran on June 13, under the order and guidance of the US president, the first bombs were fired at the negotiating table between Iran and the United States — negotiations of which five rounds had been held, with the sixth round slated for two days later, the 15<sup>th</sup> of June," he stated. "Diplomacy was the first victim of the 12-day war."

## Iran not enriching uranium

In response to a question about the existence of undeclared nuclear facilities in Iran on the sidelines of the conference, Araghchi said there

are "no undeclared nuclear enrichment facilities" in Iran, adding that all of Iran's nuclear facilities are under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He said that Iran is not currently enriching uranium due to the Israeli and US strikes on the enrichment facilities.

"Our message is clear: Iran's right to enrichment and to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including enrichment, is undeniable. Iran has this right and will continue its efforts to exercise it."

The minister also pointed to the US administration's warmongering policies across the world, censuring it for initiating an arms race across the world by its naked use of force and violations of international law. Araghchi said that there is no choice but to grow strong in the "jungle" created by the United States.

He said that US President Donald Trump came to the White House with the doctrine of "peace through strength," which turned out to be a code for "hegemony through force." The top diplomat also noted that the manifesto of a hegemonic America, which is "a return to the law of the jungle," includes the re-

naming of the US Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of War and the testing of nuclear weapons. "A president who styles himself as the president of peace arbitrarily attacks wherever he pleases without reason or justification, orders the evacuation of cities, demands unconditional surrender, and violates and rips up all international laws, even the commitments of his predecessors," he added.

## Israel's geopolitical ambitions

Araghchi also described Israel as an agent and appendage of the US in West Asia, warning that the regime pursues its boundless and dangerous geopolitical ambitions by attacking the most fundamental principles of international law. He warned that no country in West Asia is safe from Israel's military and security aspirations as the regime has attacked seven countries in the past two years, and occupied new areas in the region in addition to Palestine.

Since the beginning of Israel's war on the Gaza Strip in 2023, the regime has also launched attacks on several regional countries including Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

## Deputy FM: Iran will reconsider ties with IAEA if new resolution adopted

### International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on Sunday warned the European powers that if they get through their draft resolution against Iran at the UN nuclear watchdog, Iran would make a "fundamental revision" in its interactions with the agency and issues related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). There are reports that the United States, together with Britain, France, and Germany are gearing up to introduce a resolution against Iran over its "lack of cooperation" with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at an upcoming meeting of the Board of Governors scheduled to take place from November 19 to 21 in Vienna. "These countries, instead of being held accountable for their silence and inaction regarding the US and Israeli attacks on Iran [in June], now want to impose further pressure on Iran," Gharibabadi said, adding the reason was that they failed to achieve what they sought through the snapback mechanism,



Kazem Gharibabadi

ISNA reported.

He expressed hope that the Western countries would "act rationally" and drop their bid at the IAEA meeting. Meanwhile, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said on Sunday that the European troika continued "bullying behavior" against Iran and were adamant about taking further "provocative moves" against the country. Eslami said the IAEA, its Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, the Board of Governors, and the UN Security Council failed to condemn US and Israeli strikes on Iran's civilian nuclear facilities during

the June war.

"It is regrettable that the European troika continues the same bullying behavior against Iran and has set provocative moves on the agenda," he added. On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked war against Iran, killing dozens of high-ranking military commanders and nuclear scientists, as well as hundreds of ordinary civilians. More than a week later, the United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the NPT. Eslami also described the country's nuclear activities as transparent, vowing to continue the same path despite the persisting pressure by the US and Europeans. He emphasized that the IAEA has a clear statute and its mission is to contribute to peaceful nuclear technology. The Iranian nuclear chief noted that Tehran has been fully cooperating with the agency over the past 10 years, and that the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 officially expired on October 18.

## Pezeshkian: Armed Forces' capabilities can help gov't tackle shortages



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks in a meeting of the Strategic Council of the Ministry of Defense in Tehran on November 16, 2025.

● president.ir

### National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that the Armed Forces' capabilities could greatly assist the government to resolve the country's problems and shortages in different sectors. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting of the Strategic Council of the Ministry of Defense in Tehran, according to IRNA. Pezeshkian stressed that the Defense Ministry could play an effective role in synergizing the capacities of various sectors of the country, adding that the ministry's achievements could contribute to the country's development in technical and infrastructural areas. "As Iran's enemies know a military attack

cannot alone bring the Islamic Republic to its knees, they seek to intensify dissatisfaction in Iran by targeting the country's economy," Pezeshkian said. However, he also blamed the country's "bulky administrative structure" and its associated costs as among the root causes of budget deficits and mismatch between resources and expenditures. "We have made every effort in the government to reduce expenses in drafting the next year's budget, prevent imbalances between resources and spending, and improve efficiency," the president pointed out. Pezeshkian underlined that unity and cohesion were the key to saving the country and overcoming difficulties. "Unfortunately, for 47 years, instead of addressing the root causes, we sought to solve problems by changing individuals. We must begin reform with ourselves, and this is the path we have taken in the fourteenth government," he said.

## West targets Iran's ...

But it should be noted that even during the pause in Iran's enrichment activities, the West did not back off from threatening Iran. In fact, with or without enrichment, Western policy toward Iran does not change.

**Given that Iran has severely restricted its cooperation with the IAEA, what effect would such a step have on Iran's relations with this international watchdog?**

Before answering that, I must stress that Iran has never opposed cooperation with the IAEA, and in fact has accepted more inspections and monitoring than many other member states. What has damaged Iran's cooperation with the agency is the West's misuse of the IAEA as a political tool against Iran. Tehran has consistently shown commitment to international law, and I believe that if enrichment resumes, Iran will try to set out its actions in a way that is technically justifiable and manageable, so they don't become a fresh pretext for propaganda. However, Western politicization of Iran's

nuclear issue is so extreme that even during the period of suspended enrichment, threats, intimidation, and talk of resolutions and war never stopped.

**Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh has said that any potential negotiation with the United States would be an "armed negotiation," meaning that Iran has no trust in Washington and is prepared to take effective countermeasures against any deceit. In your view, how likely is such a negotiation to take shape, and to succeed?**

The 12-day war erupted just as the Iranian negotiating team was preparing to travel to Oman for the sixth round of Iran-US nuclear talks. US President Donald Trump's admission that Washington ordered and oversaw the attack on Iran showed that the Americans were preparing military action even as they sat at the negotiating table. This is an unforgettable and extremely significant experience. Iran understands that any future talks could again come hand in hand with parallel military threats, so Tehran must preserve its deterrence even as it negotiates.

From Iran's viewpoint, an "armed negotiation" means entering talks while remaining ready to respond decisively in case of deception or breaches, such as the US withdrawal from the JCPOA. Reaching an agreement under such deep mistrust will be difficult, though not impossible, and it requires concrete guarantees. In essence, the US must pay the price for breaking the negotiating table and destroying trust by offering greater concessions and firmer guarantees to Iran.

**Considering Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi's remarks about revisiting issues related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty should a resolution be passed against Iran at the upcoming IAEA Board of Governors meeting, could Iran's possible response involve reducing its NPT commitments or withdrawing from the Treaty altogether?**

I believe a complete withdrawal from the NPT would be among Iran's very last options. Tehran's response to any resolution passed against Iran would most likely be technical rather than political.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

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