

Tehran decries IAEA's 'illegal' resolution, vows countermeasures

Araghchi: Cairo agreement 'killed' by US, E3

International Desk

Iran strongly condemned as "illegal and unjustified" the anti-Iranian resolution adopted by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), saying it is considering countermeasure against the resolution.

The IAEA's Board of Governors on Thursday narrowly approved the resolution drafted by the European Troika – France, Germany and the UK – and the United States – passing 19-3 with 12 abstentions – that urges Tehran to "without delay" report on its enriched uranium stockpile and facilities damaged in the June aggression by Israel and the US, while omitting any mention of Iran's longstanding cooperation with the agency.

In a statement, Iran's Foreign Ministry said that the move also proves that the US and the European Troika are bent on misusing the agency to mount pressure on Iran.

The ministry said the resolution was rejected by about half of the IAEA members, including two permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The ministry said that the resolution violates the fundamental principles of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which grants member states the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The ministry said the resolu-

tion even failed to admit that direct military aggression by the US and Israel was the reason why the agency's inspections in Iran came to a halt.

It emphasized that Iran has never tried to make nuclear weapons, stressing that Israel and its nuclear arsenal pose the main threat to international peace and security.

The ministry concluded by making it clear that it will spare no effort to safeguard the rights and interests of the Iranian nation regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

West seeks 'escalation'

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a post on X on Friday said that E3 and the US seek escalation despite Iran's measures to cooperate with the IAEA as a goodwill gesture to resolve the nuclear standoff with the West.

"Like the diplomacy which was assaulted by Israel and the US in June, the Cairo Agreement has been killed by the US and the E3," Araghchi said.

Citing their measures against Iran in recent months, including strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, reimposition of international sanctions as well as the Thursday's resolution at the IAEA, the Iranian foreign minister said, "Clear for all to see: Iran is not the party that seeks to manufacture another crisis. Nor is our good will appreciated. Given that the E3 and the

US seek escalation, they know full well that the official termination of the Cairo Agreement is the direct outcome of their provocations."

The Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Friday that Iran is considering countermeasures against the resolution.

"In an official letter to the Agency, we declared that the so-called Cairo agreement – which had been reached with Iran's goodwill and after relatively long negotiations with the agency – is now canceled. Other measures are also under consideration," Baqaei said.

Before the Cairo agreement, Iran had suspended cooperation with the agency following the deadly US-Israeli aggression against Iran in June.

Baqaei also condemned the IAEA's resolution as a "blatant misuse of the international body" to advance the objectives of the US and the three European countries about Iran's nuclear issue.

Russia, China, Pakistan oppose resolution

Russia and China rebuked the resolution on Friday, calling for the settlement of the Islamic Republic's nuclear issue through dialogue and cooperation.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova said that Russia continues to firmly emphasize finding po-



People arrive for the quarterly Board of Governors meeting at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria, on November 19, 2025.
● ELISABETH MANDL/REUTERS

litical and diplomatic solutions to the issue of Iran's nuclear program.

The spokeswoman added that Moscow has repeatedly warned about the dangers of "military actions" that threaten the stability and security of West Asia, underlining that any military attack on nuclear facilities, especially those under the monitoring of the IAEA, is "unacceptable."

Zakharova further underlined that the West must put aside threats of sanctions and military threats and return to diplomacy with Iran.

Li Song, China's permanent representative to the IAEA,

told the Board of Governors on Thursday that pushing through a counterproductive resolution against Iran will "only make things worse," stressing that the US, Israel, and key European states are fueling the ongoing crisis surrounding Tehran's nuclear file.

"Countries that have recklessly resorted to the use of force and obsessively pursued confrontation and pressure are responsible for the current situation of the Iranian nuclear issue," Li said.

The Chinese envoy stressed that Israel and the United States attacked Iranian nuclear facilities safeguarded by

the IAEA in June, which led to a "fundamental change in the situation of the Iranian nuclear issue."

"Such an act should be strongly condemned by the international community and the IAEA," he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Foreign Ministry's spokesperson emphasized his country's principled position in opposing the escalating and anti-diplomatic actions regarding Iran's nuclear issue, saying that Islamabad supports Tehran's right to enrich uranium, the revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement and UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Iran scolds Canada for 'posturing' as rights champion

International Desk

Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in a statement condemned Canada for posturing as a global champion of human rights, saying it should be put on trial over its history of systemic racism against the country's Indigenous people.

Canada on Thursday has welcomed the adoption of an anti-Iran rights resolution it had drafted at the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues) of the UN General Assembly.

"Spare us the sanctimonious drivel from Canada – a country with a well-documented history of thousands of Indigenous children dumped in unmarked graves, still steeped in its own entrenched structural racism – now posturing as a global champion of human rights vis-à-vis Iran," it said. The mission also noted that Canada would have stood trial if human rights had not been misused as a tool for political pressure.



Gholamhossein Darzi

"Had 'human rights' not been hijacked as a geopolitical cudgel by the usual club of serial offenders, Canada would have been the one in the dock, sweating under resolutions, not swaggering upon the stage!"

The UN's Third Committee on Wednesday approved the draft resolution titled "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran" by a vote of 79 in favor to 28 against, with 63 abstentions. Speaking prior to the vote, Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gholamhossein Darzi rejected the "politically motivated, selective,

and wholly counterproductive" resolution.

He said that the allegations against Iran contained in the document are based on "unverified and selectively interpreted information."

The resolution disregards Iran's human rights achievements, as well as its efforts towards advancing socio-economic development and strengthening legal protections in accordance with constitutional and international obligations, he added.

The envoy further criticized the resolution for failing to condemn the flagrant violations of international law committed by the Israeli regime and the United States during their 12-day military aggression against Iran in June.

The drafters, Darzi emphasized, deliberately omitted any reference in the text to the profoundly harmful and negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures with respect to the human rights of the Iranian nation.

Envoy: Pezeshkian's message to Saudi crown prince focused on ties, Hajj

International Desk

Iran's ambassador to Saudi Arabia said a recent message sent by President Masoud Pezeshkian to the Saudi crown prince was about bilateral relations and Hajj pilgrimage, rejecting media speculations about Iran's efforts to revive talks with the United States. Alireza Enayati said Pezeshkian sent a letter to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud on Tuesday to appreciate the facilities and services provided to Iranian pilgrims, especially during Israel's aggression against Iran in June, and emphasized the expansion of relations between the two countries.

Enayati's comments came after Reuters on Thursday claimed that Iran's president in his letter had asked Saudi Arabia to persuade the US to revive stalled nuclear talks a day before bin Salman's visit to the White House earlier this week.

Citing sources in the West Asia region, Reuters

claimed that Pezeshkian in the letter had said Iran "does not seek confrontation," wants deeper regional cooperation and remains "open to resolving the nuclear dispute through diplomacy, provided its rights are guaranteed."

Earlier on Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei had also said that Pezeshkian's message to the Saudi crown prince was "purely bilateral." Reuters claimed that one of the sources in the Persian Gulf said Iran is seeking a channel to reopen talks with Washington, and that the de facto Saudi leader also favors a peaceful solution and conveyed that message to US President Donald Trump during his visit.

"MbS (crown prince) also wants this conflict to be over peacefully. This is important to him, and he relayed this to Trump and said he is ready to help," the source said. On Tuesday, the Saudi ruler told reporters, "We will do our best to help reach a deal between the United States and Iran."

Trump-MBS deal ...

In the meantime, pressure continues on Iran through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The UN nuclear watchdog deems Iran's post-war cooperation insufficient under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and Western states have used this as a pretext to submit and pass a resolution against Iran at the IAEA Board

of Governors. As long as Iran has not suspended its membership in the NPT and the IAEA, it is legally obliged to implement all safeguards provisions and cannot bargain its way out of full cooperation with the agency. IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi is fully aware of this and knows that Tehran has no option but to comply with his requests regarding over-

sight of its nuclear program. This is why Grossi continually talks tough to Iran. It is Iran that must now decide whether remaining within the agency and its safeguards regime serves its long-term interests, or whether it should consider leaving an organization that has not only failed to provide any benefit but has limited itself to issuing statements and threats.

