

Israel only obstacle to WMD-free Mideast: *Araghchi*

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday that Israel had acceded to no disarmament treaty and remained the only obstacle to the establishment of a Middle East free of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Addressing the 30th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in the Hague, Araghchi said such weapons had always been dangerous and inhuman.

"But when they are in the hands of wanted criminals that have been engaged in ongoing massacre and genocide for the past two years, constitute an existential threat to human civilization and to our planet," he added in a clear reference to Israel and its war on the Gaza Strip.

Citing the Israeli regime's use of banned weaponry including cluster ammunitions on Gaza and Lebanon over the past two years, Araghchi said that Tel Aviv must have been compelled to accede to the Convention and to submit to full-scope inspections, as a priority for Organization for the Prohibition

of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The Iranian foreign minister also pointed to Israel's war against Iran in June, saying that the aggression "was not only a blatant attack on the tenets of the UN Charter and international law but also a huge blow to NPT regime and the CWC's founding pillars."

"They attacked not only our safeguarded nuclear facilities but also the installations and sites under the OPCW's verification mandate, thereby triggering the risk of the release of chemical and radioactive materials – a danger that could have threatened human health and the environment well beyond Iran's borders."

Iraq's chemical attack on Iran

Referring to Iran's experience of chemical attacks, Araghchi said that the CWC, as an outstanding legacy of human collective wisdom and conscience, was created to prevent the horror of the use of chemical weapons from recurring.

"We, the Iranians, feel the extreme pain and suffering inflicted on our soldiers and civilians by (former Iraqi dictator) Saddam regime's chemical attacks

during his war of aggression on Iran. Our wounds are still bleeding after 4 decades; and we can see the horror of chemical weapons as our war heroes and veterans as well as their families continue to suffer extreme pain", he said.

The top diplomat said that the use of chemical weapons in armed conflicts is a heinous war crime that does not disappear with the passage of time.

"Iran persists, therefore, in its call for accountability and justice regarding Saddam regime's use of chemical weapons against Iranians. Those who provided Saddam regime with necessary materials and know-how to develop its military chemical program must be held to account".

On June 28, 1987, the Saddam regime dropped mustard gas bombs on Iranian western city of Sardasht, killing at least 119 Iranian civilians and injuring another 8,000, leaving some of them permanently disabled.

Western countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, Britain, France, and the United States, contributed to the Iraqi regime's chemical weapons program at the time.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses the 30th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in the Hague, Netherlands, on November 25, 2025.
● IRNA

Principles of equality, impartiality

In his speech, Araghchi also called for safeguarding the fundamental principles of equality, impartiality, and non-discrimination to guarantee the effective functioning of the OPCW.

He described the CWC as the most successful disarmament treaty that can

endure only if its provisions are complied with by all states with no exception and without double standards.

"Selective application or politically driven interpretations of the convention's provisions would undermine our shared objectives and erode the collective trust among States Parties", the Iranian foreign minister concluded.

Grossi says UN watchdog seeks reengagement with Iran Iranian, French FMs to discuss nuclear issue in Paris today

International Desk

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) wants to fully reengage with Iran to restore inspection activities in the country, Director General Rafael Grossi said on Tuesday.

His remarks came as relations between Iran and the IAEA are at its lowest point due to the agency's measures against Iran in recent months.

Iran on Thursday canceled an agreement it signed with the IAEA in Cairo in September to resume cooperation which had been suspended following strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran's nuclear facilities in June.

Iran said the IAEA effectively provided cover for the strikes by declaring the country in violation of its non-proliferation obligations shortly before the bombardment and then failing to condemn the strikes.

Iran's move to terminate the Cairo deal was in response to a resolution which was adopted by the IAEA



Rafael Grossi
● REUTERS

Board of Governors on Thursday. The resolution, put forward by the US, France, Britain and Germany, calls on Iran to fully and promptly cooperate with the agency, provide inspectors with detailed information on its stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60% purity, and grant access to its nuclear sites.

Following the resolution, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described the move as "unlawful and unjustified," saying that the three European countries and the US undermined the IAEA's authority and independence and would disrupt Iran's cooperation with the agency. The Iranian foreign minister is now scheduled to meet with his French counterpart Jean Noel Barrot today

in Paris to discuss Iran's nuclear program and the case of Iranian citizen held in France.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Monday that the country's nuclear program along with the case of Iranian national Mahdih Esfandiari, as well as regional and international developments would be on agenda.

"This will be an opportunity for us to call on Iran to comply with its obligations towards the IAEA and for a swift resumption of cooperation with the agency," Barrot said.

France alongside Germany and Britain triggered the return of UN sanctions against Iran in October, that had been lifted under a now-defunct 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran's nuclear program has been a source of contention with Western countries for more than two decades. While Iran insists that its nuclear activities are entirely peaceful and aimed at civilian purposes such as energy production and medical research, Western powers have long expressed concern that Tehran could be seeking the capability to develop nuclear weapons.

Israel's 'aggressive' hands must be cut off from region: *Parliament speaker*



Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf addresses the open session of the Parliament on November 25, 2025.
● ICANA

Iran's Parliament speaker said the Israeli regime's "aggressive hand" must be severed from the region to halt its policy of "borderless crime."

Speaking at the legislature on Tuesday, Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf said the regime has resorted to the approach under its "criminal prime minister [Benjamin Netanyahu]."

"For them, there is no difference between Tehran, Beirut, Doha, Islamabad, Khartoum, and Istanbul," he said, Press TV reported. The comments came following the regime's assassination of Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah's senior commander, Haytham Ali Tabatabai, and four other members of the group in an airstrike against Beirut's southern suburbs.

Qalibaf emphasized that Hezbollah remained "strong and unwavering," moving steadily forward, despite Tel Aviv's attempts to destabilize the region.

The top legislator described the entity as an enemy "devoid of human values" and

not considering itself bound by any rules or agreements.

In such circumstances, only "courage and power" could deter the adversary, he said, underlining that forbidding the regime from continuing its criminal path was essential to the restoration of regional stability.

Qalibaf expressed certainty that the region's resistance movements would face the entity's approach of unabated atrocity with a coordinated and prudent response in due course.

"This situation cannot continue. Patience has its limits," he said, stressing that the resistance "calculates carefully but acts decisively... it does not seek war, but it fights well."

The official also condemned global powers and international organizations for bearing witness to the regime's "brutality," yet "lacking the will to stop it."

His remarks echoed those made by Mohsen Rezaei, a former chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), who underlined during a ceremony on Monday that the regime's targeted killings of resistance commanders were accelerating its own demise.

Tehran blends de-escalation ...

What are likely to be the main topics of discussion between the Iranian and French foreign ministers? Will the talks focus solely on IAEA access issues, or also cover broader matters such as Iran's missile program and regional security?

The agenda will almost certainly extend beyond a single theme. While IAEA-related issues and safeguards cooperation will be central, the wider regional and bilateral context makes a broader conversation almost inevitable.

Several key areas are likely to shape the talks: First, regional security. Iran is a pivotal actor in West Asia, while France plays an active role in developments concerning the Persian Gulf, Lebanon and maritime security.

Second, the future of regional dialogue and Europe's potential role. Paris has often attempted to facilitate discussions among regional actors, and this cannot be done without consistent high-level contact with Tehran.

Third, defense and missile-related perceptions. Although Iran's defensive programs are non-negotiable, diplomatic discussions may address concerns or misunderstandings in order to keep tensions in check.

Fourth, bilateral relations, including economic, cultural and academic cooperation. Both sides understand that disengagement only shuts the door on opportunities that could gradually be revived through sustained dialogue. Overall, the discussions will likely be multi-dimensional and reflective of the real diplomatic needs between Tehran and Paris.

Can this trip be interpreted as an indirect step toward reopening communication channels between Tehran and Washington?

This visit should not be viewed as a direct move toward US-Iran dialogue. However, it may help create a more conducive political climate for managing wider tensions. In diplomacy, major shifts do not always begin with formal

talks; sometimes, improving the overall atmosphere and engaging with influential intermediaries can set the stage for more meaningful dialogue later.

France has on several occasions sought to facilitate contacts between Tehran and certain Western capitals, including Washington. Strengthened diplomatic lines with Paris could therefore help reduce misunderstandings and stabilize communication across the broader Iran-West spectrum.

That said, this trip is fundamentally a bilateral and Europe-focused initiative. Iran has repeatedly emphasized that any engagement with any party would occur solely within the framework of national interests and through official, transparent channels.

Thus, while the Paris visit should not be seen as a direct attempt to open a backchannel, it may indirectly support de-escalation, expand diplomatic space, and reduce misperceptions — creating a calmer context in which larger strategic decisions might eventually be considered.

