

Pezeshkian slams world powers for granting Israel 'special right' for aggression

Iran, Russia stress implementation of strategic partnership pact

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Friday that the policies of major powers in West Asia created "a special right" for Israel, a situation which had enabled the regime to pursue military aggression across the region, including on Iran, without facing meaningful international consequences.

"In the environment of existing discrimination and inequality, the policy of major powers in West Asia has in practice created a special privilege for the Zionist regime," Pezeshkian said in an address to the International Conference on Peace and Trust in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. "This privilege has been the source of many wars and injustices in the region."

Pezeshkian said the roots of conflicts were not military but structures, shaped by global systems that favor powerful nations at the expense of weaker ones.

"Wars are not sudden events," he said. "They are the product of selfishness and a sense of superiority. They take root in unjust global economic structures, in institutions that amplify the voices of the powerful and silence the weak, and in legal regimes that make justice conditional on the will of major powers," he added.

Such a system, Pezeshkian said, has turned peace into "a privilege limited to certain geographies" rather than a universal right.

The Iranian president said that a combination of geopolitical calcu-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) addresses the International Conference on Peace and Trust in Turkmenistan's capital of Ashgabat on December 12, 2025.
● president.ir

lations, Western security interests and the failures of international institutions had contributed to Israel's sense of impunity. On the sidelines of the conference, the Iranian president held separate meetings with the leaders of the countries participating in the event.

Iran-Russia relations

During his meeting with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, Pezeshkian expressed Tehran's determination to implement an agreement on a comprehensive strategic partnership with Russia signed in January. "Joint cooperation, particularly in the fields of power generation, transportation, and transit corridors, is currently being pursued. Regarding the [North-South] corridor, Iran will fully prepare the grounds for the project's implementation by the end of the year," he added. Pezeshkian also described agricultural cooperation between the two countries as highly beneficial, say-

ing the model could be expanded to other sectors as well.

Putin, for his part, said that Russia-Iran relations were "developing very positively."

He noted that the two countries were discussing ties in the field of gas and electricity, and working closely on Iran's nuclear issue.

"Moscow and Tehran are cooperating in various areas, including the Bushehr nuclear power plant and infrastructure development projects, such as the North-South corridor," he added.

Putin said trade between Russia and Iran increased by 13% last year, and by another 8% this year.

Economic relations with Iraq, Pakistan

In a meeting with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the two leaders emphasized the follow-up of the agreements finalized during a recent Pezeshkian's visit to Islamabad.

The president also discussed a range of issues, especially economic relations, with his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Latif Rashid.

"Joint investment and the development of border communications are among our priorities, Pezeshkian said as he emphasized the necessity of connecting Iranian and Iraqi businessmen, universities, and industries.

"We have given special authority to the governors of border provinces to use the vast existing capacities to increase trade."

Need for fostering trust, peace

In a meeting with Turkmenistan's National Leader Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Pezeshkian called for fostering trust, peace, and solidarity among nations in today's world. "Today's world, more than ever before, is in need of building trust, peace, and solidarity among nations, and the initiative you have pioneered reflects a profound understanding of the realities of our time," he said.

He also expressed hope that Turkmenistan's approach would extend to the region and beyond to promote regional peace and security.

The Turkmen leader, for his part, noted that the complexity of the current global situation required increased dialogue and consultations. Praising excellent Turkmenistan-Iran relations, particularly in trade, culture, and humanitarian efforts, Berdimuhamedov hoped for closer bilateral ties in the future.

Iran advancing despite many challenges: Leader



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a ceremony marking the birth anniversary of Fatima al-Zahra (PBUH), the daughter of Islam's Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), in Tehran on Dec. 11, 2025.
● khamenei.ir

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Thursday that despite enormous shortages and challenges facing Iran, the nation was "moving, striving, and advancing" through the steadfastness, sincerity, and justice-seeking of its people.

"The shortages and problems across the country are many, but the nation, day by day, with perseverance, sincerity, goodness, and pursuit of justice, creates honor and strength for Islam and Iran, and by God's grace, the country is moving, striving, and advancing," Ayatollah Khamenei said at a ceremony marking the birth anniversary of Fatima al-Zahra (PBUH), the daughter of Islam's Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The Leader touched on a "broad media and propaganda campaign" against Iran after the June military aggression by Israel and the US against Iran.

"Today, beyond the military clashes we have witnessed, we are in the center of a propaganda and media war with a broad enemy front," he said. "The enemy has realized that this property, land, and spiritual homeland cannot be subdued and occupied through military pressure."

Ayatollah Khamenei said the enemy's "line, danger, and goal" was to erase the effects, goals, and concepts of the Islamic Revolution.

The US, the Leader said, was "at the center of this wide and active front," with some European countries surrounding it and domestic mercenaries and traitors residing in Europe seeking personal gain on the periphery. He noted that resisting Western media campaigns was "difficult but entirely possible."

Highlighting Iranian resilience, Ayatollah Khamenei said: "The people of Iran, through national resistance, have thwarted ongoing efforts by the enemy to change the religious, historical, and cultural identity of the nation."

He cited provocations and propaganda by Western media actors and political-military leaders as instances of the enemy's propaganda pressure, noting that the pressure was often aimed at "territorial expansion, — like what the US does in Latin America — control of underground resources, changing lifestyles, and, most importantly, identity transformation."

The Leader also reflected on a century of foreign attempts to undermine Iran's identity.

Iran seeks 'new chapter' in ties with Lebanon, FM says

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Thursday that Iran was seeking a "new chapter" in bilateral relations with Lebanon after his Lebanese counterpart said Beirut was in "full readiness to establish a new era of constructive relations with Iran based on mutual respect."

Tensions between Tehran and Beirut have increased in recent months over Lebanon's decision to disarm Hezbollah resistance group under pressure from Israel and the United States.

In a post published on X, Araghchi said that he was "bemused" by his Lebanese counterpart's decision not to accept Tehran's invitation for an official visit.

The top diplomat noted that while he was grateful for Youssef Raggi's "kind invitation,"



Abbas Araghchi
● IRNA

there was no need for "a neutral venue" for talks between countries with "brotherly and full diplomatic relations."

The Iranian foreign minister added he understood why Raggi was not prepared to travel to Tehran, citing Israel's occupation and violations of a cease-

fire.

"Hence I will gladly accept his invitation to come to Beirut," he said.

Lebanon's foreign minister had earlier apologized for declining the Tehran visit, saying the refusal "does not mean rejecting dialogue," but that "suitable con-

ditions" for such a meeting were not currently available.

Raggi then proposed a bilateral meeting in a "neutral third country" agreeable to both sides.

In an interview with Al Jazeera on Friday, Raggi reiterated that Beirut was open to dialogue with Tehran "provided that it stops interfering in our internal affairs."

Iran has repeatedly rejected accusations of interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

The Lebanese minister also claimed that Hezbollah's weapons had "proven ineffective" in defending Lebanon.

The Lebanese resistance movement has dismissed demands for disarmament, saying it will never lay down its weapons and will not hand over its arms cache to the army while Israel's military attacks against the country continue.

Iran protests US restrictions on its UN mission



Iran's Foreign Ministry on Thursday condemned the US for intensifying restrictions on Iran's diplomatic mission to the United Nations in New York, urging UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres to intervene to prevent further violation

of Iran's legal rights under the Host Country Agreement.

"The extensive limits on the residence and movement of Iranian diplomats, tightened banking restrictions, and constraints affecting daily purchases

represent pressures designed to disrupt the normal and lawful duties of Iran's diplomatic personnel," the ministry said in a statement, according to Tasnim.

The statement added that the US State Department's decision to bar three members of Iran's mission from continuing their work in New York was "a peak in lawlessness" and violations of host-country commitments, calling into question the United States' fitness to host the world body.

UN Deputy Spokesman Farhan Haq reacted to the US decision, saying Washing-

ton should have allowed accredited Iranian diplomats to carry out their work freely.

Haq affirmed the world body's position that Washington, as host country, was obligated to permit the unrestricted movement of all UN-based diplomatic staff.

"Whenever countries have faced restrictions on their diplomatic personnel, they raise that with us, and then we remind the host country of its obligations under the Host Country Agreement to allow the free movement of diplomats accredited to the United Nations," he said.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

