

Iran, US agree to resume talks despite 'prevailing mistrust'

Araghchi hails Muscat negotiations as 'very good start'

International Desk

Iran and the United States held their first round of new negotiations in Oman on Friday, with the Iranian foreign minister calling the talks "a very good start" but saying that for the resumption of the talks a mistrust caused by the June aggression must first be addressed. "In a very positive atmosphere, our positions and concerns were conveyed and the views of the other side were shared with us," Araghchi told Iranian state TV, adding that, "There was almost agreement on continuing the negotiations, and it was agreed that they would continue."

"Overall, I can say that it was a good start, but its continuation depends on holding consultations in the capitals and deciding how to proceed."

He noted that the timing and way of the next round of talks will be determined in subsequent consultations through the Omani foreign minister. He described a mistrust that has

developed after strikes by the US and Israel on Iran in June as a serious challenge facing the negotiations, saying that, "We must first address this issue, and then enter into the next level of negotiations."

The sides agreed to once again begin a process of talks eight months after Israel's war against Iran led to immense distrust and a significant challenge to negotiations, he said.

"We must first overcome this prevailing atmosphere of distrust, and only then can we design a framework for a new dialogue, one that can... secure the interests of the Iranian people," Araghchi pointed out.

In a separate interview with IRNA, he underlined that the discussions were exclusively focused on the nuclear issue and they are not addressing any other subject.

He also said that the Iranian delegation in Oman stressed that any talks must take place "without threats."

"The prerequisite for any dialogue is to refrain from threats



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (C) speaks to Iranian media following the talks between Iran and the US in Muscat, Oman on February 6, 2026.

● IRNA

and pressure," Araghchi said. "We raised this point clearly today and we expect it to be adhered to in order to allow for the continuation of the talks."

Araghchi led the Iranian negotiating team while US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff led the American delegation, accompanied by President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner.

Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of US Central Command (CENTCOM) also attended the negotiations in Oman.

The Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi in a post on social media said that his country mediated "very serious talks".

"It was useful to clarify both Iranian and American thinking and identify areas for possible progress," Albusaidi said.

"We aim to reconvene in due



course, with the results to be considered carefully in Tehran and Washington," he added, without providing an exact timeline for when the next round of discussions might take place.

The talks in Oman came amid a crisis that has raised fears of a

military confrontation between the two countries after a US military buildup in the region on the pretext of Iran's response to recent riots in the country, which were triggered by nationwide protests last month over economic problems.

According to the Iranian offi-

cials more than 3,100 people have lost their lives in the protests.

Last year, Iran had held five rounds of talks on a replacement for the 2015 nuclear deal but the US-Israeli airstrikes on the country derailed the negotiations.

Aliyev: Azerbaijani territory not to be used for anti-Tehran threats

'Azerbaijan ready to help ease Iran-US tensions'



Iran's Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh (L) shakes hands with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev during a meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan on February 6, 2026.

● IRNA

importance for Iran, which borders both Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"We want peace throughout the world, no bloodshed, no wars," Aliyev was quoted as saying, stressing that Azerbaijan exemplifies a successful transition from war to peace.

Highlighting the positive results of a last year visit by the Iranian president to Azerbaijan, Aliyev stated that "relations have developed further since that visit," the statement said.

"During the conversation, they noted the development of bilateral relations based on principles of friendship, brotherhood, and good-neighborliness between the two countries, and exchanged views on prospects for defense cooperation," the statement added. Nasirzadeh delivered a message from Pezeshkian to Aliyev and said he had travelled to Baku at the Iranian president's instruction.

International Desk

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said his country will not allow its territory to be used for any threat against Iran, amid US threats of military aggression against the Islamic Republic. Aliyev made the remarks on Friday during a meeting in Baku with Iran's Defense Minister, Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, where the two sides discussed regional security developments. Aliyev stressed that within the framework of friendly and brotherly ties between the two countries, Azer-

baijan would not permit any action from its soil that could pose a threat to Iran.

He also underlined the importance of relations between the two neighboring states, noting their shared historical, cultural and religious ties.

Aliyev said Azerbaijan has consistently regarded Iran's stability and security as significant for the broader region.

The Azerbaijani president also on Friday reaffirmed his country's readiness to help de-escalate tensions between Iran and the United States, which have deteriorated in

recent months over a range of issues including Iran's nuclear program.

The Azerbaijani president said during his recent phone call with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on January 21 he had expressed concern about the situation in the region and had offered help, according to a statement by Azerbaijan's presidential office.

Aliyev said on Friday that while conflicts continue in many parts of the world, peace has already been established in the South Caucasus – an issue that he said is of great

Global optimism on Muscat-mediated Iran-US talks

International Desk

Many countries reacted to new round of negotiations between Iran and the United States in Oman, expressing hope that the talks would lead to positive results.

The Kremlin said on Friday that it hoped that negotiations between Iran and the United States in Oman would yield results and lead to a de-escalation and urged all sides to show restraint in the meantime.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry also issued a statement on Friday, saying that Cairo welcomes diplomatic efforts aimed at reviving dialogue between Washington and Tehran.

Egypt said the current diplomatic momentum offered a chance to reach a balanced agreement that addresses the concerns of all parties and avoids further escalation in a region already facing heightened tensions.

The ministry reiterated Cairo's long-standing position that the Iranian nuclear issue cannot be resolved through military means, warning that any confrontation would have consequences for

the entire Middle East.

It said Egypt would continue coordinating with regional partners in support of negotiations that preserve the interests of all sides and contribute to wider regional stability.

Meanwhile, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah and his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty expressed hope that differences between Iran and the US would be resolved through diplomatic means, warning that military options will complicate the situation in the region.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian also stressed that dialogue was the pathway to resolve tensions between the two sides.

He said China "hopes all parties will resolve differences through dialogue and jointly keep the region peaceful and stable."

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who was on a three-day tour in the region, said concerns about Iran are "very, very high" among regional leaders, calling on Tehran to return to negotiations with the US and end its nuclear program.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

