

# Russia, China back US-Iran peace memorandum US bound to ensure proper implementation of MoU: *Araghchi*

## International Desk

Russian and Chinese foreign ministers said on Wednesday that their countries fully support a memorandum of understanding (MoU) recently reached between Iran and the United States to end the aggression against Iran.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Chinese top diplomat Wang Yi made the remarks in separate phone calls with their Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi.

Lavrov said that Moscow supports the Iran-US agreement which is scheduled to be signed in Switzerland on Friday, however he insisted that the Israeli regime must also comply.

"The Russian minister expressed support for the understandings reached through effective mediation by Pakistan and Qatar to de-escalate tensions in the region. The im-

portance of compliance by all parties involved in the armed conflict, including Israel, was emphasized," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a read-out of the call.

Araghchi, for his part, stressed the responsibility of the US to ensure the proper implementation of the agreement, stressing that among the provisions is the complete cessation of attacks against Lebanon.

Back in March, Israel began to launch attacks on Lebanon after Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah launched military operations against Israel in response to the regime's aggression against Iran. The war has claimed at least 3,700 lives since March 2, according to the latest figures released by Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Lavrov and Araghchi also underlined the importance of international backing for the agreement, including support

from the United Nations Security Council.

They stressed the need for continued diplomatic cooperation among regional countries aimed at strengthening peace and stability.

Chinese foreign minister also welcomed the deal and commended the resilience of the Iranian government and nation in the face of pressures and coercive policies, and at the same time praised Iran's "responsible and diplomatic approach" in resolving issues and advancing dialogue.

Wang Yi, while emphasizing the need for the precise and full implementation of the provisions of the memorandum, also declared China's readiness to cooperate in facilitating its implementation.

The Iranian foreign minister expressed hope that Iran and China would be able to take advantage of the opportunities



Sergei Lavrov



Abbas Araghchi



Wang Yi

presented by the deal to develop their bilateral relations, particularly in the areas of energy and economy.

Tehran and Washington announced the agreement on Monday after a marathon of negotiations mediated by Pakistan, which will be followed by 60-day negotiations on Iran's nuclear issue and sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic. Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and US Vice President JD Vance will attend the formal signing of the agreement in Switzerland on Friday. On February 28, the US and the Israeli regime began their

latest round of unprovoked aggression against Iran. After their failure to achieve their goals in the war, Washington accepted a ceasefire agreement proposed by Pakistan and engaged in talks with Tehran to end the war.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi said on Tuesday that the second phase of the two-stage process will begin immediately after the signing of the memorandum on Friday.

Takht-Ravanchi noted that the MoU addresses war reparations, the release of Iran's frozen assets, end to US blockade

on Iranian ports and an end to hostilities across the region, including Israel's war on Lebanon.

Announcing the agreement in a post on social media on the early hours of Monday, US President Donald Trump said the Strait of Hormuz, a major shipping route for global oil and gas supplies that Iran has effectively shut down for months, would open on Friday, and that he had ordered the end of the US blockade of Iranian ports.

The memorandum of understanding also includes a \$300 billion fund to help rebuild Iran.

## Israel continues southern Lebanon strikes despite Iran-US deal

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Israeli forces on Wednesday carried out airstrikes on several areas in south Lebanon, state media reported, despite a peace agreement between Iran and the United States, that includes halt to regime's attacks on Lebanon.

Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) said Israeli warplanes launched raids targeting the Nabatieh al-Fawqa area and the eastern outskirts of neighboring town Kfar Tebnit.

The Israelis also launched a drone strike on the town of Ansariyeh in the Zahrani area, NNA reported.

While violence has declined in Lebanon since a US-Iran agreement was announced on Monday, Israeli strikes on the south have killed at least five people since then, according to NNA.

The reduction in violence has allowed some south Lebanon residents to return



The photo shows buildings destroyed in Israel's strikes on southern Lebanon on June 17, 2026.

● AFP

and inspect their towns and villages, but the Lebanese army has urged locals to delay their return, citing "the risk of Israeli violations and attacks." Iran's military threatened on Tuesday to respond to Israel after strikes in southern Lebanon killed several people. "If the child-killing army of the Zionist regime does not put an end to its acts of aggression in southern Lebanon, it should await a harsh response from the powerful Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran," said the

Iranian military's central command Khatam al-Anbiya. It added that Israel had violated the ceasefire in Lebanon "84 times" since the deal was announced on Monday.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also said on Tuesday that an end to the conflict would be incomplete "without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories it occupied in this war."

"Any military attack by the Zionist regime on Lebanon from now on and the con-

tinued occupation of Lebanese territories from now on will be considered a violation of the memorandum of understanding in our view," he said.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that the regime's forces would remain in Lebanon "for as long as necessary."

Israeli attacks on Lebanon began in early March after Lebanon's resistance group Hezbollah launched military operations against the regime in response to the regime's aggression against Iran.

The war has claimed at least 3,800 lives since March 2, according to the latest figures released by Lebanon's Health Ministry.

## Iranian space program gaining fresh momentum: *Minister*

Iran's space industry is pressing forward with renewed momentum, as the minister of information and communications technology announces the underway plans for the imminent launch of the "Pars 2" satellite and deployment of the "Shahid Soleimani" constellation by year-end.

Speaking on Wednesday at a meeting with experts and managers of the Iranian Space Research Institute, including Hassan Salarieh, head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), Sattar Hashemi praised the achievements of the space sector under the current administration, attributing progress to the efforts of specialists and experts in the field, Press TV reported. "The approach of the Ministry of Communications and the fourteenth administration toward the space industry is a strategic one, and this field has extensive capacities for the development of smart agriculture, water resource management, land management, and improving the quality of data-driven governance in the country," Hashemi stressed. The minister also highlighted the resilience of Iran's space infrastructure during wartime conditions, describing continued operations as a significant achievement.

"The continuation of the country's space activities under difficult conditions is the result of the commitment, expertise, and round-the-clock efforts of colleagues in this field," Hashemi added.

Referring to ongoing projects, he added that "the necessary planning is underway to place the 'Pars 2' satellite into orbit."



● MEHR

Pars-2 is an advanced, domestically-developed highly-accurate and imaging satellite manufactured by ISA with the primary mission of Earth observation, remote sensing, and environmental monitoring.

Hashemi further stressed the importance of strengthening international and technological cooperation while rebuilding and restructuring the sector after recent challenges caused by the US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran.

In his remarks, Salarieh, the ISA's chief, reaffirmed that space projects are continuing at high speed and rejected claims that the industry had been disrupted by war time conditions. "The projects in the space industry are being carried out at high speed. The damage inflicted during the Ramadan War does not mean that our space industry has stopped; the country's space industry is still operating," he stressed.

Salarieh further emphasized the distributed nature of Iran's space infrastructure, explaining that the system is not centralized in a way that would allow it to be halted by targeting a single site.

## Iranian tankers exit US blockade zone ahead of peace talks

### International Desk

The first tankers carrying Iranian oil exited a US blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, a tracking website said on Wednesday, two days before the signing of an agreement between Tehran and Washington. The talks on a final settlement are set to begin Friday at Switzerland's Bürgenstock mountain resort, as news that the Hormuz Strait will reopen sent world oil prices tumbling.

The TankerTrackers website, which monitors oil shipments and storage, marked Iran's "first crude oil exports in two months," citing digital tracking data corroborated by satellite imagery.

"At least two National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) VLCC supertankers named DIONA (9569695) and HERO2 (9362073) have exited the US Navy blockade perimeter carrying a combined total of 3.8 million barrels of Iranian crude oil between them," TankerTrackers said on



● AP

X, later adding that a third tanker had exited.

Negotiations over a final deal are to start immediately after the Swiss signing ceremony and continue during a 60-day window, leading to decisions on the fate of Iran's nuclear program and a plan for the lifting of international economic sanctions.

The United States will allow Iran to immediately begin selling oil and fuel under the deal to end the war, the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported on Tuesday, citing unnamed people familiar with the agreement.

A waiver of sanctions on oil sales will take effect immediately after the signing, the WSJ added, also covering services such as banking, transportation and insurance.

Iranian officials on Tuesday announced that the naval blockade have been removed.

Senior member of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Alaeddin Boroujerdi said that several Iranian ships have already broken through the US naval blockade which has been in place since April 13.

The US imposed the blockade on Iranian ports after Iran closed the strategic Strait of Hormuz in response to the US-Israeli aggression against Iran on February 28. The closure of the waterway caused the surge in energy prices across the world. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi also said on Tuesday that the two-month US naval blockade on Iranian ports have been lifted.

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