

Pezeshkian calls for development plans based on Iran's territorial advantages, limits



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) chairs a meeting with agricultural experts and practitioners in Tehran on Aug. 78, 8682.
● [president.ir](#)

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday that Iran's development plans must be based on the country's actual territorial strengths and limitations, as the nation faces severe water scarcity and mounting climate pressures.

"Development plans must be based on the country's real territorial advantages and limitations," Pezeshkian told a meeting of agricultural experts and practitioners. He called for a shift toward "producing less water-intensive products, improving the efficiency of existing resources and facilities, reforming cropping

patterns, and making better use of the country's untapped capacities." Pezeshkian said Iran's current situation demands a realistic approach to policy-making, pointing to a range of imbalances, climate-related challenges – particularly limited water resources – and the consequences of ongoing conflict. Iran has remained on a war footing since a US-Israeli coalition launched attacks on the country in late February, with a 40-day campaign that heavily targeted civilians and infrastructure. Attacks on Iranian infrastructure resumed on July 11 and continued for several weeks. The country's southern ports are also under a US naval blockade imposed by President Donald Trump in mid-April to pressure Tehran into an agreement. At Tuesday's meeting, agricultural representatives outlined Iran's existing capacities and constraints, presenting

projects aimed at expanding production and ensuring sustainable food supply through domestic resources. Discussions focused on practical steps to strengthen food security and reduce dependence on imports and foreign-currency allocations, in line with the country's climate conditions and limited water resources. Topics included expanding red meat, poultry and aquaculture production, reforming cropping patterns, raising farmland productivity, promoting water-efficient crops, and applying modern, knowledge-based production methods. Participants also called for reviewing traditional production methods, improving agricultural input efficiency, maximizing existing capacities, and activating untapped potential in the sector. Their proposals emphasized reducing water consumption, boosting productivity, and strengthening domestic production. Pezeshkian welcomed the proposals, saying the country's greatest need is for capable, knowledgeable and motivated people who can address its problems without being held back by administrative red tape and bureaucracy. He urged that ideas be turned into specific, actionable programs and told the attendees, "Submit your executive and operational plans to the government; the government will support them." The president also stressed that environmental requirements must be met in agricultural development, saying ecosystem sustainability should be given serious attention in project design and implementation. "Production projects should not disrupt ecological balance or intensify environmental damage," he said. Pezeshkian reiterated government support for practical, workable projects in agriculture and food security, pledging full backing for effective operational plans and promising to remove administrative obstacles to their implementation. He also emphasized the need for public participation, particularly from local and rural communities, saying maximum use should be made of people's capacity and that conditions should be created for villagers and agricultural producers to actively engage in both designing and implementing projects.

TPO chief sees Tehran construction expo boosting Iran, regional building sector

Economy Desk

A major construction industry exhibition in Tehran can help advance the sector in Iran and the region and lead to the development of construction projects and related equipment, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization chief Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi said in a message to the event. The 26th International Exhibition of Building and Construction opened on Tuesday with 600 Iranian and foreign companies taking part. It will run through Aug. 21 at the Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds. Dehqan Dehnavi said the exhibition provides an opportunity for construction industry professionals to learn about the latest technologies, modern construction methods, new building materials, smart-building equipment, mechanical and electrical systems and specialized engineering services. He described the event as one of the largest exhibitions in the Middle East and the largest in Iran in the construction sector, saying companies from Iran and other countries were taking part.



Companies attending the exhibition can introduce their products to new markets and explore potential cooperation with foreign companies, he said. He said Iran's construction market had significant potential because of domestic demand and that the exhibition could help expand the market for knowledge-based companies. He also pointed to Iran's potential to export construction materials and products, saying the country had competitive advantages in global markets because of its abundant raw materials, inexpensive energy, relatively low labor costs and the quality of its products. Iraq, Turkey and Afghanistan are among the biggest importers of Iranian construction materials, he said, adding that geographical proximity, lower transportation costs and favorable customs tariffs make those markets attractive for Iranian exports. Iran also has the capacity to export at least 1 million metric tons of steel structures a year, given its production of high-quality and competitive steel, Dehqan Dehnavi said. He said exports of construction materials could become a major source of foreign-exchange revenue and an important driver of economic growth, but structural barriers and external problems continued to hamper the sector's expansion. Effective cooperation between the government, trade institutions and exporters, as well as compliance with domestic and international legal requirements, was necessary to develop the sector's export potential, he said. The exhibition, organized by Iran's Cooperative Chamber, covers building materials, equipment and machinery, doors and windows, elevators and escalators, mechanical and electrical installations, smart systems, safety equipment, architecture and modern design, and knowledge-based products.

Iran-Oman trade must rise multiples of current level, joint chamber head says

Economy Desk

Trade between Iran and Oman should expand severalfold from its current annual volume of under \$5 billion, given that Iran's trade with the neighboring United Arab Emirates exceeds \$26 billion, the head of the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce said on Tuesday. Jamal Razeghi told a meeting of the provincial government-private sector dialogue council in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province that while Iran-UAE trade stood at roughly \$26 billion per year, bilateral trade with Oman had yet to surpass the \$5 billion mark. "Iran-Oman relations have continued unabated since before the Islamic Revolution (1979), but in practice, insufficient attention has been paid to developing trade with this country," Razeghi said, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

He said bilateral trade had grown at an annual rate of 30% to 40% over the past three years, but added: "Despite this growth, the absolute value of trade remains low and has stayed below \$5 billion." Razeghi said the private sector had for years called for diverting a portion of Iran's trade away from the UAE and toward Oman, but that for various reasons, such a shift had not been permitted. He also outlined disruptions caused by Iran's heavy reliance on UAE trade routes during the recent conflict. A large share of the country's trade had been channeled through the UAE's Jebel Ali port, he said, and when the UAE announced that even Iranian vessels would not be allowed to load or unload cargo there, a significant portion of trade effectively ground to a halt. "This year, in particular, the country's farmers suffered serious losses in ex-

porting their products, and we also faced major difficulties in importing essential goods," Razeghi said. "Policymakers should learn from this experience and avoid concentrating the country's trade on a single destination." Iran's southern ports remain under a US naval blockade imposed by former President Donald Trump in mid-April, part of an effort to pressure Tehran into an agreement following a 40-day US-Israeli war that began in late February. After a several-week pause following the signing of a memorandum of understanding, strikes on Iranian infrastructure resumed in mid-July, and the blockade was also reinstated. Iran has been seeking to diversify its logistics routes to counter growing restrictions on trade corridors, redirecting cargo operations to northern ports as well as to ports in Pakistan, India and Oman after activity at Jebel Ali was disrupted during wartime conditions.

Trade deficit hits \$2b as exports plunge 24% y/y, customs head says

Economy Desk

Iran's non-oil exports reached nearly \$15 billion and imports \$17 billion between March 21 and Aug. 16, with exports down an average of 24% compared with the same period last year, the head of Iran's customs administration said on Tuesday. Speaking at the 43rd meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce's board of representatives, Foroud Asgari said import policies had prioritized goods designated as foreign-exchange priorities, leading to reduced imports of some non-essential or lower-priority items, IRNA reported. Asgari said mobile phone imports had dropped sharply. Some 3.16 million handsets were imported during the first five months of last year, compared with about 1 million in the same period this year, representing a roughly 70% decline in value. The Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade's current priority is to supply raw materials needed by manufacturing units, Asgari said,



Iran Customs Administration chief Foroud Asgari (8th R) speaks at the 09rd meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce's board of representatives on Aug. 78, 8682.
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adding that import policies were therefore focused on goods that directly feed into the production cycle. He said 25,000 vehicles had so far been cleared through customs, up 67% from the same period last year. Turning to basic goods at the country's ports, Asgari said about 9.5 million metric tons of the country's total 39 million tons of imports were basic commodities, of which 4.5 million tons were currently held at 13 ports. About 3 million tons of basic goods were at Imam Khomeini port and about 1 million tons at 12 other ports, he said. Asgari added that 145,000

tons of goods were currently being unloaded, while about 500,000 tons were waiting at anchorage for unloading. He stressed the need to streamline port and customs operations to ensure the timely supply of the country's needs, saying the customs administration was working to ensure that clearance of basic goods and priority items continued without interruption.

False-flag operation aimed ...

My impression is that they themselves understand what is going on. They know the Americans and the Israelis well, and it is unlikely that they will fall into the trap set by the US and Israel. Israel has a special unit within Mossad that carries out false-flag operations. Its job is to create discord and conduct operations in the name of other countries. Israel has been highly active in this regard.

The drone attack on Egypt's Damietta port in late July can be cited as an example. Another example is Ukraine's targeting of an Iranian vessel in the Caspian Sea. In reality, such an action was carried out in Israel's interests and to threaten ties between Iran and Russia.

What steps can Iran take to prevent tensions with Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region from escalating and stop the incident from turning

into a political crisis? Is Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf's trip to Baghdad aimed at clarifying this issue? Qalibaf's visit is aimed at addressing the issue and clearing up misunderstandings. Also, if the Kurdistan Region and the Iraqi government want, Iran can also suggest to help with the investigation so that they can establish with certainty that the attack did not originate from Iran.