



Iran, Indonesia seek closer environmental cooperation at BRICS meeting

Social Desk

Iran and Indonesia agreed to foster environmental cooperation, including on biodiversity, waste management, climate change and marine ecosystems, during a meeting between their environmental officials in New Delhi, India, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Head of Iran's Department of Environment Shina Ansari met Indonesian Environment Minister Mohammad Jumhur Hidayat on the sidelines of the 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting which was held Tuesday.

Ansari pointed to the two countries' shared environmental potential and called for stronger bilateral cooperation, the exchange of experience and technical knowledge, and expanded expert-level cooperation. She stressed the importance

of protecting biodiversity and natural habitats, forests, water resources and marine ecosystems, as well as tackling climate change and managing waste. She called for the two countries to share experience in these areas.

Hidayat also called for greater specialised and technical environmental cooperation between Iran and Indonesia. Referring to Indonesia's efforts to tackle plastic pollution, he stressed the importance of cooperation and consensus among countries on practical waste-management mechanisms, particularly in coastal areas.

The two sides also agreed to keep up consultations and use multilateral mechanisms, particularly BRICS, to expand environmental cooperation. The BRICS meeting was held under the slogan "Building for



Head of Iran's Department of Environment Shina Ansari (r) meets with Indonesian Environment Minister Mohammad Jumhur Hidayat on the sidelines of the 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi, India, on August 18, 2026.

● IRNA

Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". Promoting sustainable lifestyles, forest protection and disaster resilience, the circular economy, and climate change adaptation were the four main areas of environmental discussions at the meeting.

BRICS ministers, senior officials and policymakers discussed ways to strengthen environmental cooperation, exchange experience and develop common positions aimed at achieving sustainable development and improving countries' resilience.



Iranian artist's photograph goes on display in US international art exhibition



● MEHR

Arts & Culture Desk

An Iranian photographer and filmmaker, Armin Amirian, is taking part in the 13th annual FL3TCH3R International Exhibit in the United States with his photograph 'Constitutional Revolution of Iran.'

The exhibition opened on August 7 and will run until September 27, at Fischman Gallery in downtown Johnson City, Tennessee, Mehr News Agency reported on Wednesday.

The photograph is part of Amirian's 'hICEstory' art series, which he created in 2020 as a continuation of his narrative approach to art. The series depicts figures from Iran's Constitutional Revolution emerging through layers of ice. The revolution passed its 120th anniversary in August this year.

The work marks another international appearance for Amirian, who has participated in more than 100 international exhibitions and festivals. He has previously received awards from the Fletcher

er Dyer Foundation, including an award for artistic excellence.

Works from 'hICEstory' have been shown in solo exhibitions in Iran, Italy and France, as well as international exhibitions at London's Saatchi Gallery and venues in the United States, Germany and Spain.

The FL3TCH3R Exhibit was established in memory of artist and designer Fletcher H. Dyer and seeks to continue his legacy of addressing social and political issues through art. The 2026 exhibition is an international juried show selected by this year's juror and curator, Jessica Burke. It has no specific theme, allowing artists to focus broadly on socially and politically engaged art and contemporary issues affecting society and culture.

The exhibition encourages diverse media and artistic approaches to exploring social and political concerns, with more than \$2,000 in awards to be presented. The awards ceremony is scheduled for September 4 at Fischman Gallery.

Part of the proceeds from the exhibition supports the Fletcher Hancock Dyer Memorial Scholarship for an art and design student. The scholarship reached its endowment goal in 2017.

Hot air ballooning, recreational flights to be introduced at airports

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has signed an agreement to introduce hot air ballooning and light recreational flights at its airports, aiming to tap into underutilized infrastructure to boost tourism and attract private investment.

The memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts and the Iran Airports Company (IAC), IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Under the plan, authorities will develop "air tourism" by offering balloon rides, light recreational flights, and modern aerial entertainment services within airport premises.

In addition to aerial activities, the deal seeks to turn airport spaces into commercial hubs for Iranian handicrafts. Planners say the initiative will give domestic and foreign tourists easier access to authentic local products while creating new specialized jobs.

Traditionally used only for passenger and cargo transit, Iran's airports will now host a "new generation of combined tourism, recreational, commer-



● skyboy.ir

cial, and handicraft projects," according to the agreement's framework.

To draw private investors, the two entities will identify unused airport lands and spaces, packaging them into investment projects.

The projects will benefit from tax exemptions and financial incentives provided under Clause B, Article 83 of Iran's Seventh Development Plan, a legal framework designed to lower the costs of tourism infrastructure and equipment.

The government's push relies heavily on private sector participation, aiming to convert idle airport capacities into active economic opportunities and strengthen the link between the country's aviation infrastructure and its tourism economy.

Caspian Convention in ...

Some believe the convention should not be ratified by Parliament before the "baseline" is determined and finalized. What is your idea on that?

The issue of determining the method for drawing straight baselines is extremely important for Iran because the Iranian coast along the southern Caspian has a concave shape. If the median line is used as the basis, that line would shift toward the Iranian coast, reducing Iran's share of the water, seabed and subsoil.

For this reason, Iranian negotiators included a provision requiring the "unfavorable situation" of geographically disadvantaged countries to be taken into account when drawing straight

baselines, with Iran declaring its coastline to be such a case.

An important point that critics overlook is that the convention does not address the delimitation of the seabed and subsoil at all. Article 8 of the convention explicitly states that the delimitation of the seabed and subsoil must be carried out through bilateral or multilateral agreements among opposite and adjacent states.

Therefore, the convention is, in this respect, simply a "Framework Convention," which has established principles and rules on the basis of which the work can subsequently be carried out among the countries concerned.

If ratification of the convention is delayed until the method for drawing

straight baselines becomes clear, Iran would have greater leverage and a useful bargaining tool. However, more than 90 percent of the convention consists of general provisions covering areas such as navigation, fisheries, safety, environmental protection, aquatic life, combating terrorism, organized crime, innocent passage and so on.

Government and Foreign Ministry officials favor sending it on to Parliament because they believe the convention's other 90 percent of cooperation should not be held up by lengthy baseline negotiations.

If this convention is set aside, could returning to the 1921 and 1940 treaties serve our interests?

This convention is the product of nearly three decades of intensive negotiations, expert assessments and consideration of all possible alternatives, whereas those two treaties did not address the legal issues surrounding the Caspian Sea, the delimitation of its seabed and subsoil, the water area, pipelines, cables, environmental issues and so on.

The 1921 treaty was essentially a treaty of friendship concluded after the Bolshevik Revolution in the Soviet Union to abolish the colonial privileges of tsarist Russia. It simply declared the eighth chapter of the Treaty of Turkmenchay null and void, restored Iran's right to maintain a naval force in the Caspian Sea, and recognized equal navigation rights for the two parties.

The 1940 treaty is mainly a commercial and customs agreement, with over 95 percent of its provisions covering land trade, ports and commercial navigation. Its only non-commercial provision established a 10-nautical-mile exclusive fishing zone.

Therefore, the 1921 and 1940 treaties in no way meet the needs or address the challenges facing the Caspian Sea today, such as the exploration and extraction of oil and gas from the seabed and subsoil, the construction of pipelines, fiber-optic cables, environmental protection and many other issues.

Drafting a comprehensive, new and up-to-date document was therefore an unavoidable necessity for safeguarding national interests.