

BRICS condemns attacks on civilian infrastructure, nuclear facilities

Pezeshkian calls for bloc's 'more active role' in defending members' sovereignty

International Desk

The BRICS group of emerging economies in a joint statement on Sunday condemned attacks on civilian infrastructure and nuclear sites as the United States continues its acts of aggression against Iran.

"We express serious concern over deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities under full safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], in violation of international law and relevant resolutions of the IAEA," the joint statement said at the end of the 18th BRICS Summit in Indian capital, New Delhi. "Nuclear safeguards, safety and security must always be upheld, including in armed conflicts, to protect people and the environment from harm," the statement added.

It also expressed concern over the continued escalation of tensions in the region.

"We express deep concern over the continued escalation of tensions in Middle East/West Asia ... call for exercising maximum restraint, as well as avoiding actions that could further aggravate the situation."

The statement called for the protec-

tion of civilians, urged respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, and stressed the need to protect global trade, supply chains, energy flows and maritime security.

Addressing the summit, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called on BRICS to play a "more effective" role in defending national sovereignty and upholding the principle of non-use of force at the current critical time.

Consequences of war

Pezeshkian said that developments in West Asia, particularly the war of aggression waged by the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran, have demonstrated that the effects of targeting a country's economic, energy, and development infrastructure can, within a short period, extend beyond its borders and have regional and global repercussions.

"The people of Iran have paid a heavy price for these acts of aggression. Women and men, children and civilians have lost their lives, while infrastructure that had been built over decades to advance the country's development has been damaged. These events serve as a reminder of the international community's grave responsibility to pro-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the 18th BRICS Summit in Indian capital, New Delhi, on September 13, 2026.

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tect civilians and prevent the normalization of attacks on civilian targets," he added.

"The people of Gaza and Lebanon continue to face the consequences of atrocities and genocide. It is impossible to speak of international law without an effective international response to military aggression, the killing of human beings, and the destruction of their lives. Therefore, BRICS should also play a more effective role in defending national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and upholding the principle of non-use of force."

Originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, BRICS expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

Additionally, Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam



became BRICS partner countries last year.

The bloc accounts for 45% of the world's population and generates more than 35% of its gross domestic product (GDP) as measured in purchasing power parity.

Economic resilience

Pezeshkian said that BRICS should build a shared capacity for the economic resilience of its member states through expanding trade in national

currencies and strengthening the New Development Bank, formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank.

He further emphasized that economic resilience cannot be sustained without security.

Excessive reliance on limited financial and trade systems leaves economies vulnerable to political shocks, the president said, noting that unilateral sanctions are not merely an economic issue as they directly affect food security and people's well-being.

Deal with Oman would not mean reopening of Hormuz: *Araghchi*

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that a possible agreement expected to be reached with Oman on the Strait of Hormuz does not mean the reopening of the strategic waterway.

Araghchi in an interview with Al-Araby Al-Jadeed said that Iran's condition for reopening the strait was the return of the United States to its commitments under the Islamabad memorandum of understanding. Iran and Oman are set to sign a deal on a joint shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz today, during a meeting attended by Persian Gulf Arab foreign ministers. Iran closed the energy chokepoint days after an American-Israeli aggression against the country on February 28.

In June, Tehran and Washington agreed on a



Abbas Araghchi
● [IRNA](#)

60-day reopening period as part of a Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding, but American violations forced Tehran to shut the waterway again.

Since the closure of the conduit, Iran and Oman, which sit on either side of the strait, have held several rounds of negotiations to regulate transit through the waterway. They have now reached an agreement

on arrangements for transit through the strait from which a fifth of the world's oil and gas is exported.

"We will provide the details of the agreement with Oman and the maps related to the new route to the participating countries," Araghchi said. The top diplomat also said Tehran believed responsibility for ensuring regional security and stability rested solely

with the countries of the region.

"We hope these talks will pave the way for future consultations on issues of concern to the countries of the region," he said.

Although the Strait of Hormuz remains the sole agenda item, Tehran believes that an increase in regional cooperation means that "the scope for interventions and imposed arrangements from outside the region will naturally decrease," the foreign minister added.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei on Saturday described the Oman meeting as a key step toward securing stability and security in the Persian Gulf.

He said the decision to hold the meeting is the result of a process shaped by major events over the past six months.

One killed, four injured after attack on commercial vessel off Qeshm Island

International Desk

An Iranian ship was struck in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday, killing one person and injuring four others, local Iranian authorities said.

"A merchant vessel was struck around 5:00 am (0130 GMT) this morning off the coasts of Hengam and Qeshm islands. One person was killed and four others were injured," Qeshm city governor Amir Teymouri said, without specifying the origin of the strike.

Several explosions were reported overnight around Qeshm, the largest island in the strait.

The UK Maritime Trade Operations monitor said later it had received reports of a vessel being struck by an unknown projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

"A fire has broken out onboard the vessel following the reported attack. Local authorities are on the scene and assisting in evacuating crew members," it added without elaborating further on the attack.

Control over the strait has become a major flashpoint in the conflict between Iran and the United States in their six-month war.

In retaliation for attacks by the United States and Israel that started the war on February 28, Iran has blocked the waterway, a passage that was previously free and unobstructed before the conflict began.

Iran now requires vessels to obtain authorization to pass through the strait, citing security and sovereignty concerns, and is considering a mechanism to impose service fees.

Vessels that fail to comply are frequently targeted by Iranian strikes, while the United States sporadically bombs the Iranian coast in a bid to challenge Tehran's control of the strait.

In recent weeks, in violation of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding reached between the two countries to end the war, the US struck multiple locations in southern Iran, prompting Tehran to target US military facilities across the region.

Ansarullah hits Saudi base after airstrikes on Yemen

Yemen's Ansarullah resistance group on Sunday said its fighters used drones and missiles to attack a military base in southern Saudi Arabia as renewed fighting with Yemen's Saudi-backed forces forced growing numbers of civilians to flee.

The attack at the southern Sharurah base targeted "weapons depots and command and control centers that are managing the aggression against our nation and people", Ansarullah's military spokesman Yahya

Saree wrote on X.

The date of the operation was not specified. Clashes have increased this week between the Ansarullah group and Yemeni's forces, which are backed by Riyadh, AFP reported.

On Saturday, the government forces said they had struck Ansarullah's fighters in the Red Sea city of Mocha, and later attacked other Ansarullah's positions in the southwestern part of the country. US news site Axios also reported that Saudi Crown

Prince Mohammed Bin Salman twice called US President Donald Trump to request strikes on the Ansarullah last week, but that the request was rejected.

The ongoing clashes follow a week-long Ansarullah's offensive that culminated in the group capturing the remainder of Yemen's Red Sea coast and several strategic islands, cementing their hold on the Bab al-Mandab Strait at the sea's southern entrance.

The waterway has become

an important artery for Saudi Arabian oil exports after Iran largely cut off shipments through the Persian Gulf with its blockade on the Strait of Hormuz at the start of the Middle East war.

The Ansarullah group has recently declared their own maritime blockade of Riyadh's Red Sea ports.

The Ansarullah said on Saturday evening that over the past 48 hours, "Saudi enemy aircraft conducted 129 airstrikes" on areas under their control.



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