

Pezeshkian vows to firmly defend Iran's positions at UNGA

US open to meeting Iran at United Nations: **Rubio**

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday vowed to "firmly defend" the country's positions and convey Iran's strength to the world as he departed for New York to attend the 81st United Nations General Assembly meeting.

Pezeshkian underlined the hardships endured by the Iranian people and servicemen on the path of preserving their unity and defending the nation in the face of foreign aggression.

"We emerged from it with our heads held high, and this is a source of dignity and pride for all of us. Therefore, we will firmly defend our positions in international forums," he said.

"The UN General Assembly is a place where we can convey our positions, our grievances, and our strength to the world," he said.

The president noted that this Gener-

al Assembly meeting's theme was the restoration of trust among nations, lamenting that trust had been undermined on the world stage and international frameworks disregarded.

Pezeshkian said some countries use their power to pressure others and violate the rights of nations.

"At the General Assembly, I will speak about the grievances of the Iranian people, the crimes committed by our enemies, and the mistrust they have created. We have entered negotiations several times and signed an agreement, yet they acted despite the negotiations and understandings reached."

Addressing the latest round of unprovoked US-Israeli aggression that targeted the country from February 28 until April 7, including attacks on purely civilian targets, the president asked, "Is attacking homes and hospitals a fight against terrorism?"

Potential talks

Pezeshkian is scheduled to address the General Assembly on Wednesday. During the visit, he will also meet and hold talks with some heads of state and officials from countries participating in the assembly. A high-ranking Iranian delegation is accompanying President Pezeshkian.

US President Donald Trump has signaled he is open to meeting Pezeshkian in New York.

The potential encounter would come at a striking moment as Iran has sent Washington a list of conditions for renewed negotiations while Iranian military leaders warn that any new US attack would trigger retaliation against American bases and interests across the region.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio also told NBC News that the US is open to a meeting with Iran at the United Nations.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks in Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport on September 22, 2026 before departing for New York to attend the 81st United Nations General Assembly meeting. [president.ir](https://www.president.ir)

"We're open to that. I don't think anything is scheduled at this point, but we're certainly open to something like that – especially if it has the pros-

pects of leading to something positive and ultimately achieving the goal of what this is all about," Rubio said in an interview with the Today show.

Persian Gulf Arab states urge reset with Iran as conflict drags on Strategic pivot of Iran's Arab neighbors toward Tehran: **Waning of security reliance on US**

International Desk

Following the experience of the US-Israeli imposed war on Iran, the Arab states of the Persian Gulf have come to realize that regional security cannot be sustained without Iran's participation and satisfaction.

The UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia—acknowledging their vulnerability to the war's consequences and the erosion of US credibility—are now calling for dialogue, a shared security framework, and a non-aggression pact with Iran. This strategic shift presents the Islamic Republic of Iran with an opportunity to leverage its deterrence power and geographic position to steer its neighbors away from security dependence on the US and toward an independent, multilateral regional order based on shared interests.

Persian Gulf Arab states are now calling for a reset on Iran, with the United Arab Emirates urging a "new mindset" and Qatar advocating for a regional "security framework" with Tehran after the war exposed their vulnerability to Iranian attack and tarnished the US's credibility in the Middle East.

Speaking at an event on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani described the war against Iran, which the US and Israel launched in February, as a "wake-up call". He said the Persian Gulf had to "act together responsibly as a region and to make sure that we are having good relations with Iran". "We are



Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani addressing a Qatari Economic Forum held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on September 20, 2026. dohaneews.com

working towards that," he added. "Our regional partners believe in this." Sheikh Mohammed described the economic fallout from the US-Israel war on Iran as "an earthquake" with "its shock waves" reaching far beyond the borders of the Middle East, "challenging assumptions about security and stability". "Permanent security cannot be built through arrangements that leave any state permanently exposed to insecurity," Sheikh Mohammed said. "We must address the sources of tensions and build confidence."

Call for Arab states-Iran dialogue

Speaking at a separate event, Anwar Gargash, a diplomatic adviser to the UAE's president, echoed the calls for Arab states to hold a dialogue with Iran, adding that Tehran's talks with Washington "are not really moving forward".

"We need a new mindset [in] these sorts of discussions about what sort of region we all want," he said. While talks about the future stability of the region could take place between the US and Iran, Gargash said they "should also take place at an Iranian-Arab level".

In another speech this month, Gargash said: "Iran remains our neighbor, and at some point we will have to find a way to restore what can be restored... Geography leaves us no alternative to engagement."

The comments reflect a growing acknowledgment across the Persian Gulf that regional states, which had urged the US not to go to war, will have to manage relations with Tehran following the conflict, with Washington bogged down in the hostilities.

"Iran is our neighbor," Al-Thani said. "We need to understand that without having a security framework that brings us all together as [Persian] Gulf countries with Iran, ensuring that none of us is posing a threat on the other, this region will not just be continuing in the same way as it used to be."

Non-aggression pact

Saudi Arabia has also discussed the idea of a non-aggression pact between Middle East states and Iran since the war erupted, diplomats and analysts said, as part of talks with allies on how to manage regional tensions once the conflict ends.

Riyadh is engulfed in a fresh crisis after Yemen's Ansarullah resistance group reignited a more than decade-long conflict with Saudi Arabia in recent weeks, firing almost daily barrages of missiles and drones at the kingdom.

US President Donald Trump has resisted appeals from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for American forces to join Riyadh in launching strikes against Yemenis.

Tensions between Iran and regional Arab countries were triggered by the US-Israeli aggression against Iran on February 28.

Iran retaliated with attacks on the US military bases in regional countries and Israel's positions in the occupied territories as the conflict continued to spread.

An April ceasefire put an end to the most intense fighting after Tehran and Washington signed the 14-point Islamabad agreement.

However, the US began attacking Iran in July after it violated the terms of the agreement under the pretext of Iranian strikes on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.

The US also recently shifted toward a campaign of what it calls "economic asphyxiation" of Iran, imposing sanctions on various sectors in Iran.

Araghchi raps world powers over erosion of confidence in UN

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi criticized some world powers for denting confidence in the United Nations as he arrived in New York to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival in New York on Monday night, Araghchi said that the theme chosen for this year's General Assembly – restoring trust in the United Nations – was itself an admission that confidence in the organization had been undermined and, in practice, vanished, because of its failure to uphold international peace and security.

He placed the blame on powers that grant themselves the right to act as they please, ignore international institutions, international law and even the collective conscience of humanity, and claim immunity for themselves and their clients. "As a result, we see a criminal entity like the Zionist regime [of Israel] given a completely free hand to do whatever it wishes," he said. "Yet, regrettably, Western and European countries — who style themselves as champions of human rights and humanitarian law — remain silent in the face of these actions."

Iran, he said, had seen no serious condemnation from those same governments of the crimes committed in Pales-

tine, Gaza, Lebanon and Iran.

"If someone in a corner of a country like Iran faces a problem, they shed crocodile tears and raise a hue and cry," Araghchi said. "But in the face of the atrocities that occurred – where 168 innocent children were deliberately massacred in a single instant – these countries do not even issue a simple condemnation."

He was referring the US's deadly missile attack on a school in southern town of Minab on the first day of its aggression against Iran on February 28, which claimed the lives of 168 people, most of them children.

No trust, he concluded, could remain in an organization under the influence of such countries. That was why the question of restoring confidence mattered: it gave the world a chance to discuss how trust in the United Nations had been destroyed, and how it might yet be rebuilt. Araghchi also said the Iranian delegation's foremost purpose at this year's UN General Assembly is to take the world stage and defend the righteousness, rights and interests of the Iranian nation after the cowardly war of aggression by the US and Israel.

"Our most important objective is to appear on a major international platform to defend the righteousness, the rights and the interests of the Iranian people," he said.



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