

Tehran ready for talks with Washington but rejects 'bullying': *Pezeshkian*



The screenshot shows Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian during an interview with US broadcaster CBS on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran is ready to engage in talks with the United States over its nuclear program and monitoring mechanisms, stressing that Iran will not accept pressure or be forced into submission.

Pezeshkian made the remarks in an interview with US broadcaster CBS on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in

New York.

"We will negotiate with all our heart, but we do not accept bullying and coercion, and we will not accept being forced into submission," the Iranian president said.

He said Iran's experience with previous agreements has created a deep level of mistrust toward the United States due to its refusal to honor its commitments. The president cited the 2015 nuclear agreement, saying the US withdrawal

from the deal in 2018 contributed to the current lack of trust.

"We are committed to what we undertake," Pezeshkian said. "What caused the path of understanding to be cut off was the other side's failure to honor the agreement."

Referring to previous negotiations, he said Iran and the US reached an understanding in Islamabad in July, and Tehran was prepared to return to the same framework if Washington agreed to resume the previous process.

President Pezeshkian also linked the current tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz to the breakdown of the understandings between the two sides, saying the US blocked Iran's routes and Tehran responded in kind.

"It is the United States that has now blocked our way. Naturally, we have also blocked the way," he said.

No trust in US

He also referred to subsequent military attacks during periods of negotiations,

saying, "You put yourselves in our position. If someone comes and kills your leader and then does not honor the agreement you reached, what would your reaction be?"

The US and the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked war on Iran on February 28.

During the aggression, the US and the Israeli regime assassinated Iran's Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, along with senior military commanders, while thousands of civilians, including women and children, were also killed.

Iran responded with a series of retaliatory operations targeting US military assets and bases across the region.

The escalation ultimately forced the US and the Israeli regime to agree to a ceasefire on April 8 after Iran's retaliatory operations inflicted significant costs on the aggressors.

The Islamabad MoU was aimed at ending the war, but Washington soon violated the agreement by failing to re-

spect Iran's arrangements concerning the Strait of Hormuz.

The strategically vital waterway was largely closed during the war on Iran, severely disrupting regional maritime traffic and placing further pressure on energy shipments.

Iran's new proposal

The Strait remains closed, and Iran has made clear that it will not allow its reopening until the United States meets the demands Tehran has announced.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Friday outlined a seven-day plan for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, saying implementation would begin immediately if the United States accepted Iran's conditions. He said the seven-day period would begin once Washington accepted the plan.

The US had yet to publicly respond on Saturday after Iran offered the plan, though reports indicated that President Donald Trump had rejected the proposal.

FM says devastating impact of sanctions on Iranians constitutes 'economic terrorism'

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the US sanctions imposed on Iran are directly affecting the daily lives of the Iranian people, which their devastating impact constitutes "economic terrorism".

Addressing a high-level meeting of the Global Development Initiative on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Friday, Araghchi noted that development cannot thrive in an environment shaped by war, coercion, and unilateralism.

"Developing countries need financial resources, technology, knowledge and cooperation, not more barriers," he said.

He censured the continued use of unilateral coercive measures as a tool of political pressure against developing countries.

"Iran has faced such measures for decades, and they have intensified over recent years and months,"



Abbas Araghchi
IRNA

he said, adding that US sanctions restricting trade, financial resources, medicine, technology, education and scientific cooperation directly affect the daily lives of the Iranian people.

"From our perspective, the devastating impact of these measures on ordinary people constitutes economic terrorism," Araghchi said. "The United Nations must stand against such coercive measures and call for their complete and unconditional lifting." Iran's top diplomat also said sustainable development cannot be achieved without peace and respect

for international law, stressing the need to place development at the center of international cooperation.

Araghchi said the need to put development at the heart of international cooperation has never been more urgent.

"Developing countries continue to face persistent poverty and hunger, widening inequalities, rising debt burdens, gaps in financing and technology, and growing environmental challenges," he said.

"These pressures have been further intensified by conflicts, protectionist

policies, unilateral coercive measures, acts of aggression and the use of force, undermining development prospects and reversing hard-won development gains," the Iranian foreign minister added.

Araghchi also condemned the ongoing US-Israeli aggression against Iran as "a clear violation of international law and the UN Charter".

He said the attacks have killed thousands, including women and children, and destroyed civilian and vital infrastructure, causing severe economic, social and environmental damage.

Referring to several sites hit during the attacks, including a primary school in the southern city of Minab where 168 students were killed, Iran's Pasteur Institute and a sports complex in Lamerd, in Fars province, Araghchi said places representing "education, health and hope" have been turned into scenes of "blood, death and destruction."

Gharibabadi: Int'l law's credibility hinges on states' equality before law

International Desk

Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs stressed the necessity of applying international law equally to all states, without exception, in order to preserve its credibility and promote peace and justice.

"The sovereignty and territorial integrity of states are not subject to violation or bargaining," Kazem Gharibabadi said at a high-level meeting in defense of international law at the UN on Friday, noting that no state is allowed to set aside the principle of the prohibition on the use of force based solely on political claims or a unilateral perception of a threat, Press TV reported.

He warned that no country can preserve its security and sovereignty, if the fundamental principle of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter is undermined.

The Iranian officials stressed the legitimate right of any country subjected to aggression to self-defense "within the framework of the UN Charter and international law".

He emphasized that principles such as adherence to international humanitarian law, the protection of civilians, and the need to distinguish between military and civilian objects, should be applied without exception, whether in Palestine, Iran, Lebanon, Yemen or any country across the world.

Gharibabadi stated that today's primary problem is the "selective" application of rules of international law, noting that the UN Charter is invoked in one case, while geopolitical interests are prioritized in others. He further said that in some cases



strict compliance with UN Security Council resolutions is demanded, whereas in others the violations of these resolutions go unanswered.

In one case, investigations and accountability are called for, while in another, political backing obstructs accountability, he added.

"Such an approach not only undermines justice, but also erodes the confidence of nations in multilateralism and international institutions," Gharibabadi stressed.

Warning that the credibility of international law will be undermined, if it is not applied equally to all states, Gharibabadi emphasized the importance of the International Court of Justice.

"As the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the Court must be able to adjudicate disputes between states independently of political pressure and clarify their legal obligations," he said.

The diplomat also expressed Tehran's readiness to cooperate with countries that believe in the sovereign equality of states, multilateralism, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the non-discriminatory application of international law to strengthen the multilateral system with the United Nations at its heart.

Iran's underground defense infrastructure frustrates enemy calculations: *Defense Ministry*

International Desk

Iran has deployed part of its Armed Forces' strategic capabilities in secure environments and underground infrastructure in recent years, frustrating the enemy's calculations, Defense Ministry spokesman Brigadier General Reza Taleai-Nik said.

"Part of the strategic capabilities of the Armed Forces have in recent years been deployed in secure environments and underground infrastructure, a move that has frustrated the enemy's calculations regarding Iran's defense capabilities and weapons production capacity," Taleai-Nik said on Saturday.

He said that although the war imposed costs and inflicted damage on



Reza Taleai-Nik
IRNA

Iran, the enemy failed to achieve its main strategic objectives, while Iran also imposed costs on them.

He described the recent wars as wars of technology, specialists, and hybrid warfare, saying that, alongside the military arena, social, economic, media, and cognitive domains had

become major fields of confrontation. The spokesman said the intensity of fire, speed of operations, geographical scope of the fighting, types of weapons, and use of new technologies in recent wars were incomparable with Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's eight-year war on Iran in the 1980s.

He underlined the need to simultaneously strengthen defense power and domestic capacity, saying Iran needed to increase resilience across various sectors to maintain deterrence. Taleai-Nik added that despite the enemy's use of advanced technologies and pursuit of new objectives, it failed to achieve any of its strategic goals through two rounds of wars since last year.



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