

Pezeshkian: Iran's approach toward Strait of Hormuz based on preserving security, interests of regional states



Vessels, seen from Iran's port city of Bandar Abbas, are anchored in the Strait of Hormuz on September 12, 2026.
● ANADOLU

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian highlighted the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz to regional and global security, saying that Iran's approach to the strategic waterway is responsible and based on preserving the security, stability and interests of the countries of the region.

In a message marking World Maritime Day on Wednesday, Pezeshkian described the sea as more than a body of water for Iran, calling it a divine blessing and an integral part of the country's history, identity, and way of life, as well as a major source of opportunities for its present and future.

"The Strait of Hormuz, as one of the most important maritime passages, holds a special position in the security and economy of the region and the world," the president said.

"Our approach to this strategic waterway is responsible and based on preserving the security, stability and interests of the countries of the region," he added.

Pezeshkian emphasized that "sustainable security in the Persian Gulf and its waterways depends above all on the cooperation, responsibility and active role of the countries of the region." He also praised Iran's maritime community for maintaining the country's vital economic lifelines

over the past year.

"The strong presence in maritime areas over the past year was a testament to the great determination of the men who did not allow the pulse of the country's vital arteries to stop for even a moment," Pezeshkian said.

Iran restricted transit through the Strait of Hormuz in response to the illegal US-Israeli aggression that began on February 28.

On June 17, Tehran and Washington signed the Pakistan-brokered Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), whose Article 5 places responsibility for reopening and managing the Strait squarely in Iran's hands.

However, Washington

attempted to undermine Iran's sovereignty over the vital global energy chokepoint by establishing an unsafe corridor near the Omani shores.

The United States also resumed its airstrikes on Iran and imposed a naval blockade in violation of the war-ending deal.

The unlawful US measures prompted Iran to declare the Strait of Hormuz closed to all traffic. Now, shipping traffic through the Strait has reached its lowest level in months, sending oil prices to their highest.

The Islamic Republic says the reopening of the critical waterway depends on US compliance with its obligations under the MoU.

American forces exit Iraq after two decades

International Desk

A US-led coalition deployed in Iraq more than a decade ago under the pretext of fighting the Daesh terrorist group completed its withdrawal from Iraq on September 30, with the last troops leaving a base in Erbil under an agreement between Baghdad and Washington.

The US invaded Iraq in March 2003 to overthrow Saddam Hussein's regime, which the US falsely accused of possessing weapons of mass destruction. The collusion of the US and its allies withdrew their troops in December 2011, but returned in 2014 after Daesh seized large swathes of territory, committed massacres and forced thousands of women and children into slavery.

The group was defeated in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria in 2019, but coalition forces stayed on to battle the group's remnants.

The United States and Iraq agreed in 2024 to wind down the coalition's mission, and its troops



A member of the Iraqi security forces, flashes the victory sign during a military parade marking the withdrawal of the US-led coalition from Iraq, in Baghdad on September 30, 2026.
● AFP

withdrew gradually from bases across the country, restricting their presence to the autonomous northern Kurdistan region.

On Wednesday, the US announced the mission's formal conclusion. "Today, the United States and our Coalition partners formally concluded Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq, consistent with the September 2024 US-Iraq joint statement and US national interests," the Pentagon said.

The US Department of Defense however added that it would "continue to provide targeted training and intelligence support to our Iraqi partners".

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi hailed the end of the mission as the start of a new chapter.

"A new phase has begun, defined by Iraq's sovereignty, the strength of its institutions, the readiness of its forces, unity of decision-making, and balanced partnerships with its friends," Zaidi said at a ceremony on Wednesday.

He had also declared that October 1 would be celebrated as Sovereignty Day. It is "a national occasion that affirms the completion of Iraq's path toward sovereignty and consolidates the presence of the state and its institutions", the heads of Iraq's execu-

tive, legislative and judicial branches said on Monday. They added that "the presence of weapons outside state authority must be addressed... in line with timelines set by the government, in a manner that strengthens state sovereignty".

Zaidi, who came to power this year with the US's blessing, has vowed to reinforce the state's monopoly on arms and ensure that armed factions hand over their weapons to the state.

His government initially set September 30 as the deadline for factions to disarm, but later withdrew the time limit as talks continued to "regulate" weapons – an issue that has fueled division and is expected to take much longer to resolve.

Iran receives US response to its proposal on Hormuz



Fatemeh Mohajerani
● IRNA

International Desk

Iranian authorities said on Wednesday they received the official US response to their proposal to end the US-Israeli aggression against Iran and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, days after US President Donald Trump rejected the plan.

"At today's cabinet meeting, the American side's proposal was presented to President Masoud Pezeshkian by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi," government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani told IRNA, without specifying the content of the reply.

Diplomatic efforts are "being pursued diligently" to find solutions to the crisis after more than seven months of war, she added.

After months of conflict, indirect talks between the United States and Iran resumed last week on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Iran said it has put forward seven conditions for ending hostilities and reopening the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for oil and gas exports.

The strait lies at the heart of the conflict between the United States and Iran, which began with US-Israeli strikes on the Islamic Republic in late February.

Tehran imposed a blockade on Hormuz after the war started, prompting Washington to respond with its own blockade on Iranian ports.

While not all conditions have been made public, Iran is notably demanding a ceasefire across the Middle East, including in Lebanon, where Hezbollah movement has been battling Israeli forces.

It is also demanding the unfreezing of Iranian assets abroad, the lifting of sanctions on its oil sector and an end to the US naval blockade.

Trump rejected the proposal when speaking to the press on Saturday,

but Tehran had been awaiting an official response via Qatari mediators. The US has stepped up its economic warfare against Iran, imposing sanctions on Iranian airlines and vowing to take a hard stance against foreign companies that provide them with assistance.

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. Iran also closed the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

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 respect Iran's arrangements concerning the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday defended the agreement signed with the US, saying that the agreement did not undermine the country's national dignity.

"In the agreement that has been reached, no dignity has been lost; rather, the United States has been obliged to commitments that had to proceed step by step."

He also said Iran had not backed away from its principles in any provision of the Islamabad memorandum and he had sought to uphold the country's standing in line with the principles of wisdom, dignity and expediency.



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