

Pezeshkian: Iran hopes to help create unity, bring back security to region

Iranian, Saudi, Pakistani, Turkish officials discuss regional security

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that the Islamic Republic hopes to help create unity and bring back security to the region after hosting a quadrilateral meeting in Tehran. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with delegations from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey in Tehran.

During the meeting, the Iranian president said Iran is firmly ready to deepen ties with regional countries, resolve differences and draw on the shared capabilities of Islamic nations.

He noted that the region had witnessed years of violent acts and widespread crimes by Israel, which he accused of relying on state terrorism and US support to commit repeated crimes while accusing others of terrorism.

Condemning Israeli actions in Gaza, Lebanon and other regional countries, Pezeshkian said the aggression had also extended to Iran.

Such actions, he said, had no legal, humanitarian or rational justification and underscored the urgent need for Muslim countries to adopt a common approach to confronting aggression and insecurity.

"I hope the presence of representatives of important and influential Islamic countries at this meeting will pave the way for further strengthening regional unity and cohesion," the Iranian president said.

The Iranian president also urged Muslim nations to remain vigilant against interventionist and divisive policies, saying one of the objectives pursued by the United States and Israel was to weaken regional countries, drive a wedge

between Muslim nations and gradually undermine major Islamic states.

Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman, Pakistani Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and Ibrahim Kalin, the head of Turkey's intelligence service represented their countries in the meeting, which recently signed a security pact.

Earlier on the day, the delegations also held a separate meeting with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Major General Mohsen Rezaei and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said the meeting was proposed during Asim Munir's recent visit to Tehran and was welcomed by Iran.

Exploring mechanisms for regional security

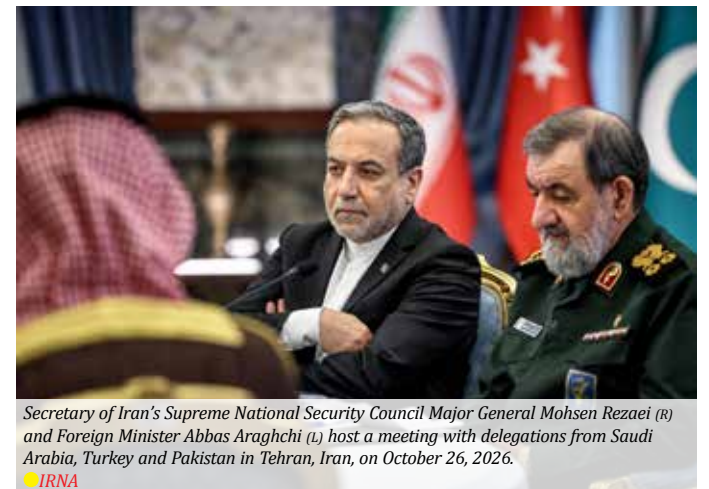
Responding to a question from

IRNA about the purpose and format of the gathering, Baqaei said the participation of senior officials from Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan reflected efforts to explore mechanisms for regional security.

"This meeting could serve as a prelude to further steps toward shaping endogenous security, an issue we have insisted on for decades. We have consistently emphasized that regional security can only be ensured by relying on the will and security considerations of the countries of the region," Baqaei said.

Qatari mediators in Tehran

Qatari mediators also traveled to Tehran on Sunday, working in coordination with the US, as part of efforts to de-escalate regional tensions, according to a regional official speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Major General Mohsen Rezaei (R) and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) host a meeting with delegations from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan in Tehran, Iran, on October 26, 2026.
IRNA

of the talks.

Following the US-Israeli aggression against Iran on February 28, Iranian Armed Forces launched retaliatory attacks on US bases in the regional countries, inflicting

heavy blows on the US military. After Iran's strong response to the US aggression, regional countries have increasingly concluded that the US security umbrella has failed to guarantee their security.

President congratulates Brazil's Lula on election victory

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian congratulated Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on his victory in Brazil's presidential election, expressing hope for stronger bilateral relations and expanded cooperation.

In a congratulatory message to Lula da Silva on Monday, Pezeshkian expressed hope that friendly ties between Iran and Brazil would further expand during the new presidential term.

He also called for enhanced cooperation between Tehran and Brasilia in areas of common interest, saying such efforts would help serve the interests of both nations and strengthen multilateralism, development and international peace.

The Iranian president wished Lula success in carrying out his responsibilities. The leftist President Lula was re-elected against all expectations on Sunday, but his conservative rival Flavio Bolsonaro refused to accept the loss and said he would seek to have the vote annulled.



Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva celebrates following his victory in general election in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on October 25, 2026.
REUTERS

Lula's dramatic comeback meant Brazil had not followed Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru, all backed by US President Donald Trump, in swinging to the right.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen hailed Lula's re-election as a triumph for "democracy and multilateralism," joining a slew of world leaders who welcomed the leftist figurehead's return for an unprecedented fourth term.

Lula, who turns 81 on Tuesday, defied projections to defeat Bolsonaro, a senator and the son of jailed former far-right president Jair Bolsonaro, and win an unprecedented fourth term.

According to official results, he won 51.8

percent of the votes to 48.2 percent for Flavio Bolsonaro, with Lula pulling around 4.4 million more votes.

Lula was warmly congratulated by the leaders of left-wing governments across Central America, including Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela.

"Long live democracy, the people of Brazil won," Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on X.

Right-wing governments in Chile, Ecuador and Peru said they wanted to work towards common goals with the region's economic powerhouse.

China echoed that sentiment, while Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also offered his friend Lula his "heartiest congratulations."

Iran's wartime experience ...

Marandi expressed hope that Iran would draw more extensively on China's governance experience, enabling the country to accelerate its development in the years ahead, once the US-Israeli war against Iran comes to an end.

"After this war comes to an end, and it will come to an end with our victory, no doubt, we should strengthen our relationship with China not on just in the fields of technology and industry, but also to work more closely with one another at the intellectual level and perhaps we would be able to have a joint project together with regards to governance and one of their programs would perhaps be held in Iran."

Marandi also argued that Iran could contribute to the global governance initiative by drawing on its experience of managing the country and maintaining its resilience during the war waged by the United States and Israel.

He said Iran would become by far the most influential actor in West Asia in the coming years, adding that perceptions of the country's regional importance and influence had already begun to change. "Since yesterday literally everyone who I've spoken to has been absolutely

stunned by Iran's competence and performance in this existential war and they look at the Iranian experience with great respect."

According to Marandi, Iran's ability to preserve its sovereignty, strength and dignity while facing immense pressure from a sinister adversary was itself an important example of governance.

"So hopefully with the experience that Iran has had on the battlefield and off battlefield, the Iranians and the Chinese can work together more closely intellectually with regards to the issues of global governance and building a better future."

Importance of global perspective on governance

Marandi said one of the biggest mistakes in discussions on governance was to approach the subject exclusively through a traditional Eurocentric perspective.

He argued that Western countries had long presented their own systems as the ideal model of governance, even as they faced serious challenges at the intellectual, economic and social levels. He also criticized the harm the West had inflicted on other countries, including

Iran, through nearly 48 years of antagonism and, to put it bluntly, criminal behavior; simply because Iran sought to preserve its sovereignty.

"Any decent intellectual and thinker, any independent-minded educated person first of all would contemplate looking at governance from alternative perspectives to learn from the different models," he said.

China, Marandi argued, offers an important example of a country whose development achievements warrant closer examination. By understanding the factors behind its success, other countries could identify lessons relevant to their own governance systems and development paths.

He added that studying different governance models was valuable in itself, while dialogue among friendly countries and intellectuals from around the world could further deepen mutual understanding and create conditions for more effective collective decision-making and, ultimately, better global governance. Marandi described the Forum as an important platform for bringing people together, exchanging perspectives and building a shared understanding of how to shape a better future.

'Iranian nuclear bomb' lie used to justify military aggression: Spox



International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Monday that US officials, under the influence of Israel, have spent decades to instill "a big lie called Iran's nuclear bomb" into their public opinion and then used it as a pretext for military aggression against Iran.

Iran has never possessed nuclear weapons and has never sought to acquire them, the spokesman said, describing this as part of the reality of the past two decades.

Another part of that reality, he said, was that Iran had engaged in negotiations in good faith and signed an agreement in 2015, only for the United States to withdraw from it three years later without any reason or justification and subsequently impose sweeping measures against Iran.

"We hope the American public becomes aware of these realities," he said.

Baqaei also questioned Washington's repeated claims that it had completely destroyed Iran's nuclear program, saying the United States had

launched another military attack against Iran just eight months after making that assertion. "What is interesting is that they continue to repeat the same claim," he said.

Washington, he added, had fabricated a lie from the outset and spent the past 30 years repeatedly promoting it.

"Repeating a lie does not turn it into the truth," he said.

Baqaei was responding to a question about recent remarks by the former US president Barack Obama who has said Iran didn't have nuclear weapons.

The US, alongside Israel, started launching strikes against Iran in late February, with Trump claiming that Americans were in imminent danger over Iran's nuclear ambitions. But Obama argued that the issue had already been dealt with under his administration — until Trump unraveled it.

"Let's think about this Iran war. The original rationale was, we're going to go in there and get them to give up their nuclear program, their nuclear weapons," Obama said. "Now, the thing was, Iran didn't have nuclear weapons, because I put a deal in place that everybody acknowledged — kept them from getting nukes. And I didn't have to fire a missile to do it; I just had to engage in diplomacy."

Iran has always underlined that it has never sought to build nuclear weapons and its nuclear program is solely for civilian purposes. Iran has long insisted it has never sought to build nuclear weapons and its nuclear program is solely for civilian purposes.

