

# The Islamabad Framework: The Essential Components of a Diplomatic Resolution with Iran

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## ABOUT UANI

United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) is a nonprofit and non-partisan policy organization formed to combat the threats posed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## OUR MISSION

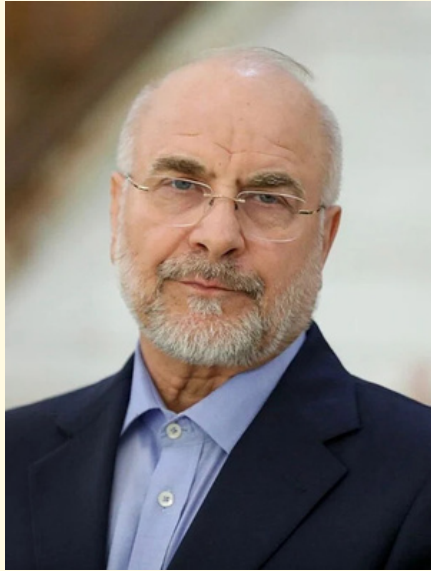
UANI educates the public, policymakers, and businesses about the danger posed by the Iranian regime and designs programs to ensure the regime's economic and diplomatic isolation until it abandons its pursuit of nuclear weapons, support for terrorism, regional destabilization, and human rights violations.

# The Islamabad Framework: The Essential Components of a Diplomatic Resolution with Iran

The emerging “Trump Doctrine” mandates that either the Iranian regime verifiably dismantles its nuclear program, imposes limits on its missile and drone program, and ends its support for terrorism, or America and Israel will do so. Tactically, President Trump operationalizes a negotiation style that employs diplomacy with consequences should it fail. The ceasefire deal of April 7, 2026, is another move in the same diplomatic strategy since January 2025.

The president:

- Opens the door to diplomacy;
- Sets a deadline, subject to extension depending on Tehran’s performance;
- Threatens military consequences if the regime does not meet U.S. demands;
- Prepares the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) theater for military action; and
- Deploys military force if he determines that the Islamic Republic has failed to meet U.S. demands or is not serious about meeting them.



Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian regime's parliament will have a crucial role in the negotiations; and Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, the Supreme Leader. Source: Wikipedia.

As President Trump moves through these five steps during the two-week ceasefire, United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) recalls the experience of nearly five decades of negotiations with Iran and provides the following components for an Islamabad Framework for a diplomatic resolution with Iran:

### **1. Tight deadlines to reach an agreement.**

The Iranian regime's negotiation doctrine is built on intentionally running down the clock—both to exhaust U.S. negotiators in order to secure better concessions and to maintain the illusion of progress, including by making superficial gestures like confidence-building measures, so as to avoid real consequences. This doctrine—rooted in the Iranian “from pillar to post” (*az in sotoon be oon sotoon*) negotiation model—is based on the view that time always favors Tehran, not least because of the authoritarian nature of the regime. This is particularly applicable to talks with the current administration, with sources in Tehran making it clear that the regime's overarching strategy is to bide time until President Trump's term ends in 2029. If the Iranians stall again, the president should once again authorize strong military strikes to demonstrate to Tehran that the U.S. will not tolerate more delay tactics.

## **2. Zero uranium enrichment.**

The Islamic Republic's Supreme National Security Council claimed falsely that the U.S. had agreed to the regime's original 10-point plan, which includes acceptance of enrichment. However, since he began running for president in 2015, President Trump has been consistent: zero enrichment on Iranian soil. U.S. negotiators should stick to this core principle. American and Israeli military force has achieved what diplomacy did not: the wrecking of Iran's uranium enrichment program. That fact on the ground should be enshrined in any deal, as is referenced in President Trump's 15-point plan.

## **3. No sunset clauses.**

A core failing of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was that it traded *permanent* sanctions relief for the regime for merely *temporary* limits on Iran's nuclear program. This trade gave the Iranian regime a clear pathway to nuclear weapons as restrictions on its uranium-enrichment and plutonium-processing capacities expired after 10 to 15 years from the date the deal came into effect. If anything, the reckless escalation by the regime during the current war, which saw Tehran indiscriminately attack densely populated civilian areas in neighboring countries, has demonstrated why Tehran cannot be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons. Sunset provisions endanger the U.S., Israel, and our other allies in the region and beyond. President Trump has rightfully and repeatedly repudiated the idea of short-term sunset clauses. An Iranian regime with nuclear weapons would always threaten the world, and so any deal with the Islamic Republic should be permanent.

#### **4. True anytime, anywhere inspections and robust verification.**

In June 2025, the Iranian regime's Atomic Energy Organization admitted it had built secret undisclosed nuclear enrichment facilities across the country. As well as exposing how Tehran had deceived the world about its nuclear program, this announcement further underscored the shortcomings of the JCPOA. That agreement did not require Iran's regime to submit to "anytime, anywhere" International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of facilities and military sites where nuclear activities are suspected to have occurred. Instead, the Islamic Republic, a serial cheater on its nuclear and other international obligations, could delay inspections, buying precious time to cover up evidence of covert nuclear activities. The U.S. and Israel destroyed many facilities and personnel associated with these covert nuclear activities, particularly those under the Organization for Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND), whose facilities, including at universities, were not subject to inspection under the JCPOA.

Key questions also remain about the Iranian regime's *undeclared* nuclear activities. The JCPOA prematurely and irresponsibly closed the IAEA probe into Iran's documented nuclear-weaponization efforts or the so-called Possible Military Dimensions (PMDs) of its nuclear program. That decision proved shortsighted after Israel's Mossad uncovered Iran's secret atomic archive in 2018, which demonstrated the Islamic Republic's longstanding violations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its safeguards obligations. Any new deal should require the regime to give a full accounting of its past nuclear activities and submit to inspections and robust verification of dismantling the nuclear program—not just its nuclear fuel enrichment chain, but also facilities engaging in dual-use research and development of technologies which can be used to produce nuclear weapons.

## **5. Restrictions on Iran's missile and drone programs.**

Tehran has traditionally refused to negotiate on its missile program. One of the JCPOA's flaws was that it did not cover missiles, even though development of delivery vehicles is a critical component of any nuclear weapons program. This flaw provided a funding windfall, via sanctions relief, for the regime's missile activities, allowing Tehran to advance its technologies. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)—a U.S.- and EU-designated terrorist organization—has been working on developing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capability, with the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency assessing that Iran could develop up to 60 ICBMs over a decade from now should there be a leadership decision to do so.

President Trump should insist on numerical and range caps on the Iranian regime's missile program. In particular, any deal must limit missiles to ranges and payloads under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) standard, which defines a nuclear-capable ballistic missile as being able to deliver a payload over 500 kilograms to a distance greater than 300 kilometers. Sanctions relief should be conditioned on Tehran completely and verifiably adhering to the standard set under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1929, which prohibits Iran from engaging in “any activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using ballistic missile technology.” If the Islamic Republic undertakes any such activity, sanctions should automatically be reinstated.

U.S. allies and partners in the Middle East, especially Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, will be especially concerned over Iran's drone program after they were targeted by Tehran during Operation Epic Fury. Limitations on drone proliferation should be addressed as well as part of any negotiated settlement.

## **6. End support for terrorism.**

The Iranian regime is the only government in the world to have an external terrorist organization, the IRGC's Quds Force, as part of its armed forces. The United States should demand Tehran abolish the IRGC's Quds Force. Under any deal, the Iranian regime should also be required to stop all support for its terror proxies and partners across the region, including Hezbollah, the Houthis, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Iraqi Shiite militias, and other armed groups.

Under the JCPOA, the windfall from permanent sanctions relief in exchange for temporary nuclear constraints freed up hundreds of billions of dollars to finance Tehran's militia network. The number and resources of IRGC-manufactured militias expanded exponentially as Tehran received sanctions relief from the United States, first from the interim 2013 Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) and later from the JCPOA. For example, following the inking of the two agreements, the IRGC acquired funds to grow its proxies, especially in Syria. In just a few years, the Fatemiyoun Brigade had increased its fighting force to more than 15,000 militants and the Zainabiyoun Brigade to approximately 5,000 fighters. The sanctions relief Tehran received also resulted in the expansion of the IRGC's Quds Force's footprint across the Middle East. Abolishing the Quds Force would remove this architecture of terror, and ending Iranian backing for these groups would reduce the risk that sanctions relief under a deal would be used to bankroll terrorism.

## **7. End transnational repression.**

Any deal with the Islamic Republic should require the regime to end its practice of transnational repression, targeting current and former U.S. officials like President Trump, American nationals, Iranian dissidents, and others around the world. This includes a stop to cyberattacks, assassination plots, and kidnapping schemes via the Iranian regime's Ministry of Intelligence, the IRGC, and its relations with other terrorist organizations and transnational criminal syndicates.

## **8. Release the hostages.**

The Trump administration should insist that before the implementation of sanctions relief under a deal, the regime must release all hostages—including American citizens like Reza Valizadeh and Kamran Hekmati—and end its policy of hostage taking. If Tehran backslides and takes any further hostages, sanctions should be automatically reinstated.

## **9. Freedom of navigation.**

The Trump administration should demand a permanent, internationalized security framework for the Strait of Hormuz that strips the IRGC of its ability to weaponize this chokepoint. Negotiations must be contingent upon the regime’s formal renunciation of maritime extortion; the verifiable decommissioning of asymmetric assets, such as naval mines and unmanned surface vehicle (USV) launch sites; and a written guarantee of unimpeded transit passage for all commercial vessels, regardless of flag or affiliation. Furthermore, the U.S. and its partners should establish a multinational maritime exclusion zone for Iranian paramilitary craft around international shipping lanes. Freedom of navigation is a global right, and the “Iran Terror Premium” must be permanently eliminated through strength and strict enforcement rather than temporary reprieves.



U.S. forces launch Operation Epic Fury in February 2026. Source: Wikipedia.

## **10. Expansion of strategic communications to counter Tehran's psychological warfare.**

The Iranian regime has waged a comprehensive psychological warfare and disinformation campaign to undermine American interests, foment division within the U.S., discredit President Trump, and demoralize the Iranian people—who overwhelmingly seek to topple the Islamic Republic. The Trump administration should operationalize a comprehensive communications strategy to counter the regime's PSYOP and disinformation campaign. This could not be more important during the upcoming talks, where the IRGC's psychological warfare apparatus—not least the Baqiatallah Headquarters overseen by IRGC commander Mohammad Ali Jafari—will be fully activated to propagate disinformation with the intent of undercutting the U.S. negotiating position. The administration should also expand its in-house Persian-language strategic communications operations—in particular via CENTCOM—to speak directly to the Iranian people. Such operations serve to counter regime propaganda that has focused on demoralizing and fragmenting Iran's overwhelmingly pro-American population.

## **11. Human rights.**

UANI stands with the Iranian people. Any deal should preserve America's freedom of action to support the democratic aspirations of the Iranian people, including by holding accountable Iranian regime officials complicit in human rights abuses through sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and support for international prosecutions.

Historically, over the last nearly five decades of negotiations, the Iranian regime has refused the kind of U.S. demands contained in the Islamabad Framework. After the success of Operation Epic Fury in weakening Iran's military power, time will tell whether the regime continues to rebuff the United States.

For related reports, see UANI's [100 Day Plan for the Trump Administration](#), [What's Wrong with the JCPOA](#), and [Iran's Version of the "Art of the Deal"](#).

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