

WHITE PAPER

Islamic Republic of Iran



IN RESPONSE TO THE GEOPOLITICAL
CRISIS IN THE AMERICAS

Executive Summary

“عدل را فروگذار مکن که ریشه آرامش است.”

(“Do not forsake justice, for it is the root of tranquillity.”) - Saadi’s Gulistan

This document serves as a practical handbook for policymakers in Iran, who stand at the precipice of times as turbulent as ours. It underscores the fundamental essence of judicious governance, with an intrinsic moral orientation that defines the Iranian State.

The Document begins with a comprehensive representation of Iran’s National interests, how they square with the rest of the world, and seeks to provide clarity about its strategic priorities. It sheds light onto the importance of abiding by international law, and its contrast with the woeful principle of unilateralism, the adverse of which Iran is greatly familiar. Then, the importance of building credible deterrence, the essence of energy centrality, and Iran’s place in the comity of nations is established.

Nextly, an Iranian viewpoint on some critical challenges is presented with a special emphasis on collective security frameworks like NATO, and the recent initiation of hostilities in the Americas. Legal precedents are also mentioned to present the backdrop for the crisis concerned.

Moreover, these conflagrations, and then looked at from the perspective of the international norm that justify them, that they transgress. An earnest dichotomy is drawn between the role that the Islamic Republic plays and how it squares with those of many others. The JCPOA is used as a case study to analyse the pattern of recent diplomatic standoffs between Iran and its strategic adversaries. This section also underscores certain foundational international legal tenets pertaining to the conflict at hand.

The subsequent sections delved into certain major risks posed by the recent conflagration on regional integration as it pertains to trade, demographics, politics, as well as its potentially global repercussions.

Finally, a litany of actionable measures of both short and longer order are proposed to advance the cause of Iran’s national interests and strategic goals. These measures include the initiation of a comprehensive Energy Charter, aimed at advocating and enshrining the

concerns and interests of various nations that have long been aggrieved by unilateral constraints. Moreover, emphasis is also laid on the contrivance of a “Multilateral Sovereignty Framework” for reinvigorating the cause of the Non-Aligned Movement in spirit but fit to the needs of the time. And lastly, the importance of South-to-South connectivity is underscored, with calls for constructive dialogue regarding future avenues for the same.

National Interests and Strategic Goals

Iran’s foreign policy is deeply rooted in the maxim that “Justice is the foundation of governance”, and we endeavour to orient it in a direction towards the achievement of its full socio-economic potential - in the wider comity of nations. In our turbulent geopolitical milieu, Iran acts as an anchor of stability and conviction, and its priorities tend to be multi-fold.¹²

Firstly, Iran is a responsible actor on the international arena that has strived to act and comply with international law even in times of great crises. This is in context of a world marred by turbulence and chaos, largely because of the oft-resorted measures of unilateralism.³ A clear dichotomy in this regard is established when Iranian efforts to diffuse tensions and diplomatically solve challenging issues of disagreement have been met with brazen disregard and utter contempt.⁴ The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) stands a case in point, which was abandoned by the United States. The record of multiple belligerent states has been quite concerning, manifested in the form of disregard for collective legal frameworks, like the charter of the Organisation of American States.

¹ Mohammad Mohammadian and Amir M. Haji-Yousefi (2022) *The Analysis of Iran’s Foreign Policy from a Sociohistorical Perspective, Social Evolution & History*, 21(2):

<https://www.sociostudies.org/journal/articles/3342368/>

² Spanish Ministry of Defence. (2010). *The Strategic Thought of the Islamic Republic of Iran*. Madrid: Spanish Ministry of Defence. Available at:

https://www.defensa.gob.es/documents/2073105/2320887/el_pensamiento_estrategico_de_la_republica_islamica_de_iran_eng.pdf/

³ Kamran Lotfi (2025) *Iran and BRICS: Curbing Unilateralism in an Era of Geopolitical Transition, Central Asia and The Caucasus Journal*, 31(129):

https://ca.ipisjournals.ir/article_725691.html?lang=en

⁴ Abbas Milani (2018) *The imprudence of unilateral US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal*, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*: <https://iranian-studies.stanford.edu/publications/imprudence-unilateral-us-withdrawal-iran-nuclear-deal>

Furthermore, Iran must bolster its security by developing bold, new deterrents including those of a technological kind. These would include improving its advanced surveillance and early warning systems along critical energy corridors and establishing joint South-South intelligence sharing between nations of the Global South.⁵

Nextly, Energy Centrality is one of the cornerstones of Iran's foreign policy owing to Iran's role as an indispensable global energy hub. Here, significant global reforms are vital to establish trust in institutions and bolster the cause of energy security. This is an especially pertinent cause, considering escalating tensions in North America and previously in Iran's own strategic neighbourhood.⁶

Iran stands as a proud member of the Non-Aligned Movement, a grouping that played a vital role in advocating for the cause of sovereign determination of numerous nations during the era of Cold War.⁷ Iran believes in reinvigorating this cause by readily extending its hands of solidarity, for the contrivance of "Multilateral Sovereignty Architecture" that would advance the cause of the globally underserved. It would provide a credible voice to great regional liberation movements such as that of the valiant Palestinian people.⁸

Moreover, Iran encouraged constructive South-South cooperation and dialogue, with a solution-oriented approach, with a focus on strengthening global energy supply routes and connectivity mechanisms. A great example would be the International North South Transport Corridor aimed at improving connectivity and trade between nations like Iran, India, Russia, etc.⁹

Lastly, there can be no bigger foreign policy priority for a nation as dynamic as Iran than further strengthening bilateral and multilateral ties with its various partners. The signing of

⁵ Najah Mohammad Ali (2025) *Iran, the US, and Tehran's options for deterrence and defense*, *Tehran Times*, 24 February 2025: <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/510185/Iran-the-US-and-Tehran-s-options-for-deterrence-and-defense>

⁶ Abdolreza Alishahi and Hamid Soleimani Souchelmaei (2020) Iran Energy Diplomacy and the International Political Economy System, *Open Journal of Economics and Commerce*, 3(2): <https://sryahwpublications.com/article/download/2638-549X.0302003>

⁷ CNS Non-Aligned Movement: Iran Country Profile. James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies: <http://cns.miis.edu/nam/index.php/site/showProfile/52>

⁸ Harold James (2025) *Iran and the End of the Old Multilateralism*, *Project Syndicate*, 24 June 2025: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/iran-us-strikes-signal-end-of-g7-multilateralism-war-over-commerce-by-harold-james-2025-06>

⁹ Lana Rawandi-Fadai (2023) *What North-South International Transport Corridor Means for Iran*, *Russian International Affairs Council*: <https://russiancouncil.ru/en/analytics-and-comments/analytics/what-north-south-international-transport-corridor-means-for-iran/>

trade-boosting and intelligence sharing agreements with nations like Russia and China are welcome steps in that direction.

Key Challenges pertaining to the crisis

The principles of individual liberty, and collective decision-making which from the basic functionalities of NATO are undermined by the USA. The abeyance of treaty obligations has left its member states in a paranoia. In accordance with the USA's actions, many European allies dislike being dragged into conflicts they did not sanction. This poses a direct force on these allied nations to shift their resources from their own interests towards the conflict due to the invocation of Article 5 by the Canadian regime widening the transatlantic divide over burden sharing.¹⁰ These growing fractures between the USA and NATO will risk the cessation of peace and ignite the risks of any future conflict making a direct impact upon the geopolitical trade and the economies of the developed and underdeveloped nations. NATO, as a belligerent and dangerous grouping has failed its purported purpose and has backfired.¹¹

Recent developments in the strait of Juan de Fuca and the aggressive manoeuvre through the Atlantic Sea stand as clear transgressions of the law of the sea, UNCLOS. Iran strongly rejects such measures. As a nation which is strategically positioned near vital global supply routes, Iran would like to emphasise the fact that freedom of navigation through international waters, is deemed as a fundamental right under the customary international law. The legal principles of the preservation of peace, freedom of trade and the passage of energy stand as the principles that should have prevented the conflicts such as the ones which have most recently erupted in North America; the enforcement of the same should be a key priority for those aiming for a sustainable peace.

¹⁰ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1949) *The North Atlantic Treaty (Washington Treaty)*, Washington D.C., 4 April 1949. Available at: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_17120.htm

¹¹ Samantha Solomotis (2024) *NATO Allies on the Brink of War: The Cause for Implementing a Dispute Resolution Mechanism Within The North Atlantic Treaty*, *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, 49(2), pp. 617 <https://brooklynworks.brooklaw.edu/bjil/vol49/iss2/8/>

Proposed Actions/Policies

Short-Term Objectives

Iran would take the following short-term measures in response to the contemporary crisis, and geopolitical context:

1. Express concern over reports of a possible airstrike on sovereign Venezuelan territory, reportedly involving U.S. forces. Urge the establishment of a neutral verification mechanism to confirm facts and document evidence.
2. Reinforce global south solidarity and emphasize Energy Freedom as the need of the hour.
3. Advocate for a forward defence doctrine, with an emphasis on bolstering the earnest cause of revolutionary movements, especially the ones facing the scourge of the Zionist regime, by legal and principled means.
4. Coordinate with Gulf countries to reanalyse the security architecture in the region.
5. Reiterate willingness for dialogue with certain western nations, provided that dialogue is based on the earnest principles of sovereign parity.
6. Endorse a temporary interim legal mechanism to prevent choosing of sides and the utilisation of NATO resources to escalate conflicts, presenting this as a vindication of Iran's longstanding stance against such military machinations.

Long-Term Objectives

7. Bridge ties and strengthen partnerships with other nations, with like-minded grievances and interests in the Middle East.

8. Propose the Energy Freedom Charter:

- Tenet 1: Freedom of purchase, sale, and passage of energy
- Tenet 2: Solidarity against economic coercion
- Tenet 3: Regional and Multilateral Cooperation

9. Contrive a "Multilateral Sovereignty Framework" initiated by the Islamic Republic:

- a. Tribute to nations victimized by brazen unilateralism.
- b. Create avenues for sovereignty expressed toward anti-imperialist movements, such as the liberation of Palestine.¹²
- c. Broad call for inputs from the comity of nations committed to long-term global peace and stability.
- d. Positive and contemporary reinvigoration of NAM principles — the doctrine of multipolar sovereignty
- e. This is taken as an inspiration from another canonical peace initiative, namely the Kellogg-Briand act, that was an initiative led by two nations, which ultimately became globally accepted.
- f. Establish a new forum or auspice for dialogue and multilateral formulation.

10. Deliberating and exploring avenues for strengthening Global South connectivity

¹² IRAM Center. (2022). *Iran's Forward Defence Doctrine and the Evolution of its Long-Arm Strategy*. IRAM Center. Available at: https://iramcenter.org/en/irans-forward-defense-doctrine-and-the-evolution-of-its-long-arm-strategy_en-2600

Risk Analysis

With such a highly condemned act done by the US authorities, Iran proposes that the risks are massive and evident. The blockade of the Strait of Juan de Fuca threatens severe access to the port of Vancouver (Canada's busiest) and Seattle-Tacoma (US's West Coast hub). This would choke a vital artery of the trans-Pacific trade, delaying container shipments, increasing freight costs, and disrupting supply chains linking North America with Asia. To construct an analogy, this minutely echoes with the supply shocks of the Suez Canal blockage (2021).

¹³Apart from the consequences on the global economies of the world, economic repercussions are also intertwined with the economies of the belligerents in this crisis - namely; the USA and Canada.¹⁴ Recent tariffs imposed by the USA greatly undermine the cause of free and open trade between the two nations, a cornerstone principle since the 1960s. The emergence of the armed hostilities between the two nations risks being the last nail on the coffin of the cause of continental free trade in North America.¹⁵

In lieu of the concerning developments in the Americas, there is a high chance of diversion of attention from other significant issues of human rights violations in Palestine perpetrated by the Zionist Regime. This shift could embolden oppressive power regimes by signalling that great-power conflicts overshadow vital humanitarian concerns.¹⁶

Further, the biggest risk would be the utilisation of the vastly bloated NATO resources both in the form of ammunition and personnel, for the fanning of flames of this regional conflict risks having global repercussions. Due to the deployment of NATO's already drained resources (by the commitments in Eastern Europe), it reduces NATO's capacity to deter Russia on the eastern front or manage the Middle-East crisis. This questions whether NATO

¹³ The New York Times (2021) How One of the World's Biggest Ships Jammed the Suez Canal, The New York Times, 17 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/17/world/middleeast/suez-canal-stuck-ship-ever-given.html>

¹⁴ Maher, S. (2025) *How Canada Got Hooked on the U.S. Economy*, TIME, 15 February. Available at: <https://time.com/7225251/canada-dependent-us-economy-tariffs-trump/>

¹⁵ Joshua P. Meltzer (2025) Trump's 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico will be a blow to all 3 economies, Brookings Institution, 3 February 2025. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/trumps-25-tariffs-on-canada-and-mexico-will-be-a-blow-to-all-3-economies/>

¹⁶ Christina Bouri and Diana Roy (2024) *The Israel-Hamas War: The Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza*, Council on Foreign Relations, 8 February 2024. Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/israel-hamas-war-humanitarian-crisis-gaza>

is serving the collective security interests of the member states or simply aligning with the USA and its unethical ambitions.

Alignment with International Law and Multilateral and Bilateral Commitments

The world that we live in, in spite of its many flaws, has given us something invaluable-peace. This stands in stark contrast to the *ancien regime*, or the brutalist times that defined the pre-WWII world order.¹⁷ The foundational principle of the same, the existence of international law that has been accepted and customarily been embraced by most nations, today is threatened by the scourge of Great Power unilateralism. Iran has consistently demonstrated responsible engagement in its affairs with the rest of the world. But a stark dichotomy threatens the envisaged order of the post-war era - the dichotomy between credible sovereignty and imperialist ambitions of certain states.¹⁸

American unipolarity, has categorically proven to be a destabilising force in geopolitics, and the recent developments in the Americas stand as cases in point. Iran's responsible global engagements stand in stark contrast with the disregard shown towards certain norms by the United States, ultimately vindicating the cause of multipolarity.¹⁹ While JCPOA, has already been delved upon previously, it can credible be juxtaposed with flagrant transgressions of agreed upon principles such as that of agreed upon in the Charter of the Organisation of American States that aimed at the maintenance of peace and goodwill in North America, which as we know has recently been breached. Moreover, the article 2(4) of the UN charter clearly states that the threat or use of force against the territory, without a justified cause, is prohibited. The recent tensions between the United States and Canada fail to provide credible reasons for the recent conflagration.

¹⁷ Ambrogio A. Caiani (2017) *Re-Inventing the Ancien Régime in Post-Napoleonic Europe*, *European History Quarterly*, 47(3), pp. 437–460. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265691417701812>

¹⁸ Islamic Republic of Iran (2016) *Statement on the Rule of Law*, 71st session, Sixth Committee, United Nations General Assembly, New York, [specify date if known]. Available at: https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/71/pdfs/statements/rule_of_law/iran.pdf

¹⁹ *How America Wasted Its Unipolar Moment* (2021) *The Economist*, 11 September. Available at: <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2021/09/11/how-america-wasted-its-unipolar-moment>

This signifies a pattern of certain international players, of bypassing international law to achieve military objectives, and Iran has repeatedly found itself to be the target of such flagrant aggression. The recent events particularly represent a breach of the collective security framework of the OAS, of which Canada, the United States of America, and 32 other nations are parties.²⁰ The bypassing of the OAS principles undermines regional sovereignty and multilateral norms. Iran, thus calls for the strengthening of international law and regional organisations, rather than unilateral militarism, aligning with its long-standing commitment to the UN Charter, NAM principles, and South-South solidarity,

Lastly, an analysis of the nature and status of NATO is essential to fully grasping the risks posed by the recent conflict. The nebulously aggressive inherence of NATO has, alas, backfired. Iran inherently opposes belligerent machinations like NATO, and calls for its effective obviation.

²⁰ Charter of the Organization of American States (1948) *Charter of the Organization of American States*, signed at Bogotá on 30 April 1948, entered into force 13 December 1951, United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 119, p. 3. Available at: <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20119/volume-119-I-1609-English.pdf>