



## Iran Nuclear Talks Update: February 13, 2026

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*While the United States and Iran continue to negotiate a potential nuclear deal, JINSA will resume its weekly release of the Iran Nuclear Talks Update.*

### Status: Ongoing

**Last met:** February 6, 2026

**Next Possible Meeting:** Week of February 16, 2026

- While the U.S. and Iranian negotiating teams have yet to confirm details of a second round of nuclear talks, *Axios* [reported](#) on February 10 that President Donald Trump believes talks will continue the week of February 16.
  - » After the Trump administration repeatedly warned Iran to enter a deal by threatening kinetic action and surging military assets to the region, including the Lincoln Strike Carrier Group, U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner, and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [held](#) indirect nuclear negotiations in Muscat, Oman on February 6.
  - » Araghchi reportedly [provided](#) Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, who mediated the talks, a “preliminary plan” for addressing rising tensions between the United States and Iran. He also claimed that the discussions only addressed Iran’s nuclear program and did not touch the regime’s ballistic missile stockpile or terrorist proxy network.
  - » However, Vice President JD Vance [indicated](#) that the talks expanded beyond nuclear requirements, telling reporters on February 9 that regime violence against protesters has “already very much been part of the negotiations.”
- Briefly on February 4, last-minute Iranian demands to relocate the talks from Turkey to Oman and exclude additional mediating Arab states that were initially set to join the negotiating teams [threatened](#) to collapse the talks. Trump [warned](#) that Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei “should be very worried.” However, Arab officials reportedly [encouraged](#) the Trump administration to accept Iran’s new request to meet in Oman.

## U.S. Demands for a Deal

- Trump's threats to attack Iran's government for violently cracking down on legitimate anti-regime protests in January quickly expanded into demands for Iran to disarm its nuclear, missile, and proxy capabilities.
  - » On February 12, Trump [told](#) reporters at the White House that the United States and Iran "have to make a deal. Otherwise, it's going to be very traumatic."
    - When asked about a potential timeline for reaching a deal, Trump [stated](#) that he expects the United States to negotiate with Iran "over the next month."
  - » On February 10, Trump [informed](#) Axios reporter Barak Ravid that "we can make an excellent deal with Iran" that addresses both the regime's nuclear program and ballistic missile stockpile. He also told Ravid that "either we will make a deal or we will have to do something very tough like last time," alluding to the June 2025 Operation Midnight Hammer.
  - » On February 4, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio [affirmed](#) that "in order for talks to actually lead to something meaningful," the negotiations must address the regime's ballistic missile range, terror sponsorship, nuclear program, and its oppression of the Iranian people.
  - » On January 15, Witkoff [indicated](#) that a deal with Iran would need to address four key issues, including "(1) nuclear enrichment, (2) missiles — they have to cut back on their inventory; (3) the actual [nuclear] material that they have, which is roughly 2000 kilograms enriched anywhere between 3.67 percent and 60%; and (4) the proxies."
- However, the Trump administration remains [ambiguous](#) on what it is willing to negotiate. At times, senior U.S. officials have refrained from commenting on the regime's missiles, proxies, and human rights abuses and instead have centered their demands on a deal that prevents Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.
  - » On February 10, when asked about overthrowing the Iranian regime, Vance [told](#) reporters that "what we're focused on right now is the fact that Iran can't have a nuclear weapon."
  - » On January 28, Trump [wrote](#) in a Truth Social post that "hopefully Iran will quickly 'Come to the Table' and negotiate a fair and equitable deal – NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS – one that is good for all parties."

## Iran's Position

- While the United States reportedly [threatened](#) kinetic action against Iran if the regime refused to accept four key demands during negotiations, Iranian leaders hope to limit the talks' scope to just nuclear conditions as to preserve the Islamic Republic's core elements and regional axis.
  - » On February 11, Araghchi [stated](#) that "no one can make the slightest encroachment on our missiles" and that Iran's missiles "are not a subject of negotiation and will not be."

- » On February 9, Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Chief Mohammad Eslami was [quoted](#) in Iranian-state media arguing that diluting enrichment to 60 percent would hinge on the United States lifting all sanctions on Iran. His statement came after Araghchi [claimed](#) to have offered "a series of confidence-building measures," in exchange for sanctions alleviation.
- » On February 8, Araghchi [demanded](#) that future diplomatic talks include "scenarios in which uranium enrichment continues...solely for peaceful purposes." A day prior, Araghchi [stated](#) that while Iran opposes relocating its uranium outside its borders, it is "ready to reduce the enrichment ratio."

## Iran's Aggression

- Despite several Iranian leaders expressing interest in a deal and claiming that the regime has only ever sought a peaceful resolve, Iran has recently attempted to deliberately escalate tensions and potentially derail negotiations.
  - » A few hours before the negotiating teams were set to meet in Oman, Iran's military [hosted](#) an event at a new subterranean missile city in which its forces displayed the advanced long-range Khorramshahr-4 ballistic missile.
  - » Additionally, a U.S. F-35C [shot down](#) an Iranian Shahed-139 drone approaching the USS *Abraham Lincoln* on February 3. That same day, two Iranian military ships and an Iranian Mohajer drone attempted to capture the U.S.-flagged MT *Stena Imperative* in the Strait of Hormuz.

## International Responses

- As the United States and Iran brace for their next round of talks, international leaders have weighed the contents of a potential agreement between the two countries.
  - » On February 11, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [stated](#) that he "expressed general skepticism about the nature of any agreement with Iran" during a meeting in Washington with Trump and conveyed to the president that a U.S.-Iran deal would have to address "not just the nuclear issue, but also the ballistic missiles and the Iranian proxies in the region."
    - Before Netanyahu's visit, the Prime Minister's Office [demanded](#) in a February 10 statement that "any negotiation must include limiting ballistic missiles and ending support for the Iranian axis."
  - » Despite U.S. and Israeli interests to expand talks beyond Iran's nuclear program, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan [stated](#) that there "could be another war in the region" if the United States "insists on addressing all the issues simultaneously."