



## Iran Nuclear Talks Update: February 27, 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. JINSA's resources on the status of the Iran talks is available at <https://jinsa.org/iran-talks/>.

### Status: Ongoing

**Last Met:** February 26, 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland

**Next Possible Meeting:** March 2, 2026, in Vienna, Austria or March 6, 2026 (location unknown)

- U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner, and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [met](#) in Geneva, Switzerland on February 26 for their third round of nuclear negotiations mediated by Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi.
- Following the meeting, which had morning and afternoon sessions, *Axios*, citing several sources familiar with the negotiations, [reported](#) that the U.S. negotiating team was “disappointed” with the morning talks, while al-Busaidi assured that the parties had made “significant progress.”
  - » Araghchi also [claimed](#) that the Thursday meeting was amongst the “best negotiating sessions” between the diplomats and that “more than ever there is seriousness on both sides to reach a deal,” according to the *New York Times*.
- During the talks, the U.S. negotiating team reportedly [demanded](#) that Iran agree to an indefinite deal in which the regime dismantle its nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan, as well as “deliver all of its remaining enriched uranium” to the United States—all of which Iran rejected—according to the *Wall Street Journal*.
  - » The U.S. proposal also did not include any [sunset clauses](#) that would offer Iran temporary limits to its nuclear program.
    - However, *CNN* [reported](#) that the U.S. negotiating team “expected” Iran to propose a deal during the talks that would “suspend enrichment for three to five years” or until the end of Donald Trump’s presidential term.
    - There are also still conflicting reports on whether the United States would permit Iran to access a [small amount of enriched uranium](#) for medical research purposes.

- Additionally, the U.S. delegation [offered](#) Iran conditioned sanctions relief and would only potentially grant the regime more relief and benefits if it complied with the deal's terms "for an extended period."
- There is currently no word if the negotiating teams broached the topics of Iran's missile stockpile or its support for regional terror proxies.
- Following their meeting, both al-Busaidi and Araghchi [claimed](#) that talks will resume in Vienna, Austria on Monday, March 2 where technical teams will be present for the negotiations.
  - » However, Trump [told](#) reporters on February 27 that he's "not happy" with Iran, but that "more talks are expected on Friday." He also reiterated that he wants "to make a deal with them."

## U.S. Actions

- The Trump administration has long pushed for Iran to give up its nuclear program and halt uranium enrichment—demands that Iran rejected in the past which ultimately prompted the United States to strike Iran's three main nuclear facilities in June 2025 during Operation Midnight Hammer.
  - » However, the U.S. negotiating team is now [calling](#) for a deal with Iran that lasts forever—a direct contrast to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or Iran Nuclear Deal, in which sunset clauses set temporary limits to Iran's nuclear program and uranium enrichment capabilities.
- With the United States continuing to weigh kinetic action against the regime, U.S. Central Command leader Admiral Brad Cooper [presented](#) potential military options to Trump following the talks in Geneva, according to *ABC News*.
  - » The briefing follows Secretary of State Marco Rubio's press briefing on February 25 in which he [told](#) reporters that Iran is "trying to rebuild elements" of its nuclear program and that the regime is "trying to get to the point where [it] ultimately can" enrich uranium. On the topic of ballistic missiles and naval assets, Rubio also [claimed](#) that Iran possesses "conventional weapons that are solely designed to attack America and attack Americans."

## Iran's Position

- After rejecting key U.S. demands during the talks, Araghchi reportedly [warned](#) the United States to avoid "any miscalculation and excessive demands" from Iran.
- Araghchi [stated](#) during an interview that Iran is "not ready to give up [its] right for peaceful use of nuclear tech" and that the regime is "not developing long range missiles."
  - » Senior Iranian cleric and prayer leader for Friday night services in Tehran Ahmad Khatami also [declared](#) that "the Islamic Republic has never accepted suspension of enrichment and will not accept it."

## International Responses

- In an IAEA report seen by several media outlets on February 27, the United Nations nuclear watchdog [stated](#) that it “cannot verify whether Iran has suspended all enrichment-related activities” or the “size of Iran’s uranium stockpile” at the nuclear facilities damaged during Operation Midnight Hammer.
  - » With Iran barring inspections, the IAEA has [relied](#) on satellite imagery that shows “regular vehicle activity” at the country’s Isfahan facility. According to Reuters, the IAEA [considers](#) Isfahan “a place of interest” due to “a new enrichment plant and near-bomb-grade uranium that was stored there.”
- With tensions mounting as the U.S. military buildup near Iran continues, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee [authorized](#) non-essential U.S. embassy staff to evacuate the Jerusalem office while the United Kingdom temporarily [withdrew](#) its staff from the British embassy in Tehran.
- [Canada](#) and [China](#) also urged their citizens on February 27 to evacuate Iran as soon as possible.