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## China backs Iran, calls for end to sanctions in Nuclear talks



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China has reaffirmed its support for Iran in nuclear negotiations, denouncing Western sanctions and threats as counterproductive. In a joint statement with Russia after high-level talks in Beijing, Chinese officials called for lifting all sanctions and emphasized the need for dialogue based on mutual respect.

The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) aimed to curb Iran's nuclear activities in

exchange for sanctions relief. However, after the U.S. withdrew from the deal in 2018 under former President Donald Trump, tensions escalated. Iran reduced its commitments, and with renewed U.S. pressure, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has ruled out negotiations under threats.

Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has reported Iran's accelerating uranium enrichment, nearing weapons-grade levels. Despite this, Tehran insists its nuclear program is peaceful. Western nations remain skeptical, citing Iran's past breaches and recent military cooperation with Russia, particularly in drone supplies used in the Ukraine conflict.

China's Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu criticized the use of sanctions and force, arguing that such measures only escalate tensions. With China's growing involvement in the Middle East, including brokering a historic Saudi-Iran rapprochement, its stance on Iran underscores its strategic interest in countering Western dominance.

As global tensions rise, including the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict and U.S. sanctions on Chinese firms over military ties, Beijing's push for diplomatic solutions reflects its broader challenge to Western policies. The outcome of Iran's nuclear talks could significantly impact regional stability and global energy markets.