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## US and Iran move forward in nuclear talks amid hopes for lasting agreement



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**Muscat:** The United States and Iran are set to advance to the next phase of nuclear negotiations, with the aim of reaching a fair and lasting agreement that ensures Iran remains free of nuclear weapons while also ending international sanctions.

The announcement came via Oman's Foreign Ministry, which has been actively mediating the discussions. Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi has facilitated dialogue between

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and U.S. President Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff.

Both parties have agreed to continue talks in Muscat in the coming days.

A statement from Oman emphasized the importance of dialogue, noting: "Only through clear

communication can a credible, binding agreement be achieved for the benefit of the region and

the world."

The most recent round of discussions was held in Rome, beginning late Saturday morning. U.S.

officials stated that while a peaceful solution is preferred, a military option remains on the table if

talks fail.

President Donald Trump, speaking to reporters earlier this week, said, "Iran has a chance to be a

great country and live peacefully that is our first option." He also reiterated a willingness to pursue

diplomacy, despite the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 Obama-era nuclear deal in 2018.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei affirmed Tehran's commitment to

diplomacy, stating on X (formerly Twitter): "We continue on this path with open eyes and good

faith, respecting the national interest and learning from past experiences."

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, currently visiting Paris, echoed a firm stance: "The President

has made it clear. Iran will not be allowed to possess nuclear weapons." However, he added, "We

are hopeful for fruitful, peaceful, and lasting outcomes through continued dialogue.”