



[Iran and the U.S. Weigh a Potential Deal to Bring an End to the War](#)

What is likely to unfold next on the Iran front largely hinges on the prospect of a one-page memorandum of understanding, which is being deliberated this week between the United States and Iran. Among various provisions, the deal would involve Iran committing to a moratorium on nuclear enrichment, the United States agreeing to lift its sanctions and release billions in frozen Iranian funds, and both sides lifting restrictions around transit through the vital Strait of Hormuz. The memo is designed to declare an immediate end to the conflict, while also initiating a 30-day period to negotiate a final and more detailed agreement aimed at resolving key existing issues. Analysts describe the memo as the closest that the two sides have come to ending the conflict, though experts warn that significant sticking points remain regarding areas such as the disposal of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile and ramped up pressure from U.S. threats to resume military action if negotiations fail. All of this has prompted many observers to contend that the situation remains extremely fluid, with a high risk of escalation if negotiations break down – either before or during the potential 30-day period.

At the heart of the memorandum would be a mutual commitment to economic and maritime stability. A primary driver for the agreement is the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, where the lifting of blockades would allow the resumption of global oil transit. In exchange for this vital concession, the United States is reportedly prepared to offer significant sanctions relief and the release of billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets. This exchange addresses the immediate existential pressures on both sides: the global need for energy security and Iran's urgent requirement for economic stabilization. Under the deal, Iran would agree to a moratorium on uranium enrichment – believed to be a period of at least 12 years but potentially up to 15. During previous failed negotiations, Iran proposed a 5-year moratorium while the U.S. demanded 20. According to analysts and experts however, the brevity of the document carries inherent risks, as the lack of detailed verification protocols for assessing this could lead to future disputes during the implementation phase.

Beyond the importance of the attempts to stave off a resumption of the conflict, the circumstances surrounding it have become a central pillar of global economic security. The continued disruptions and contested status of the Strait of Hormuz have kept global oil and gas prices at record highs, threatening a worldwide recession. Consequently, the role of external powers like China and Russia has become more pronounced. Iran is increasingly looking toward

Beijing for a "strategic partnership" to bypass Western sanctions, while the U.S. faces pressure from allies to stabilize the energy market. Thus, preventing a resumption of the war is essential for global economic security, as the conflict has already triggered the largest supply disruption in the history of the global oil market. In addition to oil and fuel, the war has disrupted supply chains for vital industrial inputs like helium and aluminum, threatening the automotive, aerospace, and semiconductor industries. This has prompted global organizations like The International Monetary Fund (IMF) to warn that a return to full-scale war could tip the world into a recession – leading to trillions in lost output, skyrocketing food prices due to fertilizer shortages, and millions of job losses across the Middle East and elsewhere.

Due to all of this, what transpires next on the Iran front is critical. While both sides appear wary of a resumption of direct hostilities and potential protracted conflict, the margin for error is extremely thin. If the current memorandum of understanding fails to materialize or even faces major obstacles during the proposed 30-day period for more detailed negotiations and agreement, there is a strong likelihood of renewed hostilities and a further deepening of an already severe global economic and maritime crisis.