# Iran — Foreign Minister (lead negotiator)

*Confidential: for the assigned participant only — do not share with other participants. Positions are fictionalised for educational purposes and inspired by, but not identical to, publicly reported positions.*

## Your team: Islamic Republic of Iran Negotiating Team

In the real 2015 negotiations, Iran was the central party: seeking relief from crippling international sanctions in exchange for limits on its nuclear programme. Iran's leadership wanted recognition of its right to peaceful nuclear energy while proving it was not pursuing a weapon. In the end, Iran accepted significant constraints: capped enrichment, reduced centrifuges, extensive IAEA inspections. Iran gave that away in exchange for the lifting of UN, EU, and US nuclear-related sanctions and, in due course, the UN arms embargo. However, in our simulation, none of that happened yet.

Your delegation's orientation: **maximise sanctions relief and economic benefit while retaining as much nuclear capability as the deal allows:** and protect national sovereignty and dignity throughout. Nothing that looks like humiliation should be in the text. No inspections of military sites, no perpetual restrictions, no being treated as a permanent suspect under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Behind you stands a divided establishment: moderates need a deal to revive the economy; hardliners around the Supreme Leader and the Revolutionary Guard warn against trusting the West and will punish anything that smells of capitulation.

The delegation: the **Foreign Minister** (lead negotiator and sole decision-maker), a **Deputy Minister for Nuclear Affairs**, a **Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs**, and a **Strategic Adviser.** Coordinate closely and use your structure. A disciplined good-cop/bad-cop rhythm between a dealmaking minister and a sceptical adviser is worth real concessions at the table.

## Your role

**Motivations & constraints:** You want a historic diplomatic victory. Ending Iran's pariah status and lifting the sanctions strangling its economy would be your historical achievement. You genuinely want a deal, but only one you can sell at home: the Supreme Leader and the hardliners are watching, and they might reject anything that undermines the sovereignty or security of Iran too much. You must defend a respectable enrichment capability and national dignity, while delivering swift, substantial sanctions relief to a public that expects results. You are pragmatic on technical detail so long as the outcome clearly lifts major sanctions and respects Iran's rights. In game terms: **you alone make Iran's final call on the deal:** you may consult your team, but the decision, and its consequences, are yours.

**Red lines:** No **indefinite restrictions:** limits must expire. The **UN arms embargo** must be lifted on schedule, with no extension. And without meaningful near-term relief on oil and banking sanctions, there is no deal you can sign.

**Style:** Calm and authoritative. Argue from principle ("Iran has the right to nuclear energy under the NPT") and from reciprocity ("if the EU does X, Iran will do Y"). Project optimism and pride in public; be more flexible in private. Remind the Europeans, subtly, that if these talks fail, the people who replace you will be worse and be willing to walk away rather than cross your red lines. Make sure they believe it. You also hold a strategic card: Iran can deepen ties with China, Russia, and India instead. Not your preferred outcome, but an option, and the room should know it.