

# Daily Memo: US-Iran Talks Resume, BRICS Expansion

by Geopolitical Futures - June 28, 2022

**Back at the table.** U.S. and Iranian negotiators arrived in Doha on Tuesday to resume talks on a nuclear deal after a three-month hiatus.

**BRICS expansion.** Iran and Argentina have applied for membership in the BRICS group of emerging market economies, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. For its part, Moscow **said it supported the idea of expansion but believes the accession process should be better defined.**

**Cash-strapped Pakistan.** The United Arab Emirates responded to Pakistan's request in April for a multibillion-dollar bailout package with **an offer to acquire shares in publicly listed government-owned companies.** The deal would give Abu Dhabi a 10-12 percent stake in the firms and a seat on the companies' boards.

**Talks in Venezuela.** A delegation of U.S. officials is **in Venezuela to discuss bilateral issues** in a follow-up to talks held in March between the two countries. **According to some reports,** the delegation included the U.S.' chief hostage negotiator, who will discuss the possible release of U.S. prisoners in Venezuela, of whom there are at least eight.

**Bolsonaro and Putin.** Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro **spoke by phone** with Russian President Vladimir Putin. They discussed international developments, including concerns over global food security. Putin confirmed that Russia would **fulfill its commitment to supply fertilizers and possibly diesel to Brazil.**

**Potential opening.** On the sidelines of the G-7 summit, France **called on oil-producing countries to significantly increase production** – which could involve, according to the French president, Iran and Venezuela's return to the energy market. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro **responded to the comments** by saying his country was willing to work with French oil and gas companies to supply the European and world markets, though this would require a sanctions waiver from Washington.

**South Korea and NATO.** South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol will reportedly meet with NATO's

secretary-general on Tuesday. They will agree on a new cooperation agreement, to come into effect later this year, **according to a South Korean official**.

**Russia in Central Asia.** Russian President Vladimir Putin and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon will **meet in Dushanbe on Tuesday** to discuss bilateral relations and the situation in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan will also **meet on Tuesday in Ashgabat for the sixth Caspian Summit**.

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