

The United States and Iran have agreed to a framework for peace that focuses on ending hostilities and reopening the Strait of Hormuz while leaving Iran's nuclear program for future negotiations. President Donald Trump announced the deal is "complete," and Iranian officials confirmed they have accepted the preliminary pact.

The framework is expected to do three immediate things: open the Strait of Hormuz to commercial shipping, lift the U.S. naval blockade on Iranian ports, and pave the way for further talks. But it does not address Iran's nuclear program in any binding way. That is the deal's defining feature and its biggest limitation.

What the Strait of Hormuz is and why it matters

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula that connects the Persian Gulf to the open ocean. It is one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints, through which about 20% of global oil passes each day.

When Iran restricted traffic through the strait in April, the U.S. responded with a naval blockade on Iranian ports to pressure Tehran to reopen passage. That blockade prevented vessels from entering or leaving Iranian ports and disrupted normal shipping routes. The conflict led to attacks on commercial ships and pushed oil prices sharply higher.

Now the framework commits both sides to restoring normal passage through the strait. Reports say the agreement will reopen Hormuz immediately, end tolls or harassment, and remove the U.S. blockade on Iranian vessels and ports. This is the deal's most concrete and immediately impactful element.

What the deal actually does

The peace framework is a preliminary pact that covers several key issues:

What the deal does	What it does not do
Reopens the Strait of Hormuz to commercial vessels	Resolve Iran's nuclear program
Lifts the U.S. naval blockade on Iranian ports	Set binding limits on uranium enrichment
Ends active hostilities and signals a ceasefire	Establish a verification mechanism for inspectors
Paves the way for further negotiations on nuclear issues	Provide guaranteed long-term sanctions relief

The agreement includes a commitment by Iran to neither develop nor procure nuclear weapons, but the technical details of enrichment, stockpiles, and verification are still to be negotiated. That means the nuclear question is deferred, not settled.

Iran also says the draft includes an oil sanctions waiver and the release of frozen assets, which would bring immediate economic relief to Tehran. The U.S. has committed to discussing sanctions relief as part of the broader process.

Why the nuclear program is left out

The most contentious issue between Washington and Tehran is Iran's nuclear program, specifically whether Iran can enrich uranium and how much it can stockpile. Past negotiations

have failed because the two sides could not agree on these technical details.

In this framework, both sides chose to defer the nuclear question. Trump said Iran has agreed not to have a nuclear weapon, but the specifics of how that will be verified and enforced are still to be negotiated. Iranian officials say the nuclear program will be addressed during a 60-day period of talks that comes after this framework.

This sequencing is a classic crisis diplomacy tactic: secure the visible win now (reopening Hormuz, ending the blockade) and trust that later talks will produce the hard compromises. The problem is that later negotiations are always harder once the initial crisis has passed and the immediate pressure to deliver has eased.

How oil markets reacted

The prospect of reopening Hormuz and ending the blockade had an immediate impact on global energy markets. Brent crude futures fell 4% after Trump announced the deal is complete. U.S. crude oil also fell nearly 5% as optimism rose that the strait would reopen over the weekend.

Earlier, oil prices had surged over \$6 per barrel when Iran halted message exchanges with the U.S. amid risks of a Hormuz blockade. The earlier tension had pushed crude prices higher as traders priced in the risk of supply disruption.

Now the deal has reversed that pressure. Markets are celebrating the first-order effect of stability even before the nuclear question is resolved.

What happens next

The framework is expected to trigger a 30-day window for negotiators to hammer out the details of a full memorandum of understanding. Iran's nuclear program will be addressed during a 60-day period of talks that follows this initial agreement.

The deal is not a final peace treaty. It is a preliminary pact that ends hostilities and restores shipping while leaving the nuclear question for later negotiations. If the framework of issues is accepted, the next phase will be more detailed negotiations on the nuclear program, sanctions relief, and long-term security guarantees.

The risks and limitations

The framework's biggest risk is that it creates ambiguity rather than resolution. Reopening Hormuz and ending the blockade are necessary to prevent immediate economic damage, but they do not substitute for a genuine nuclear accord, a verification mechanism, and a durable political channel between the two governments.

If Iran gains relief but keeps enough nuclear ambiguity to worry its neighbors, it confirms the fear that diplomacy is merely a pause in a longer coercive contest. If Iran gives too much away on enrichment in the next round, it risks selling domestic legitimacy for a temporary opening of the strait.

The deal also risks losing leverage. If the U.S. ends the blockade before a durable nuclear arrangement exists, Washington may lose pressure while gaining only a temporary quiet.

This is a ceasefire with better branding, not a final peace. The framework reopens the Strait of Hormuz, ends the blockade, and creates a path for future talks, but it does not resolve the

core dispute over Iran's nuclear future. It buys time and stabilizes markets, but the hardest questions are still waiting to be answered.