The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution met with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning. - 20 /May/ 2023

The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution met with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning. In the meeting, he outlined three essential keywords by explaining the criteria and indicators of a successful foreign policy: 'honour' defined as negating and avoiding begging diplomacy, 'wisdom' defined as wise and calculated interactions and activities, and 'expediency' defined as the flexibility to circumvent difficult obstacles and continue the path set out, and he called upon the diplomatic officials of the country to constantly monitor the gradual developments and influential events on the international stage to attain the deserved position of Iran in the future world order.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei counted a proper foreign policy and an efficient diplomatic system as fundamental pillars for the successful administration of the country. He stated six mandatory principles in foreign policy, "Observing these is a sign of a successful foreign policy, and if these principles are not observed, we have problems either in the theory of foreign policy or the function and operation of diplomacy."

As stated by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the first principle of a successful foreign policy is the ability to convincingly explain the rationale behind the country's approaches to various issues.

The five other principles he mentioned when describing a successful and honourable foreign policy were 'an effective and directional presence in various global political-economic phenomena, events and movements', 'solving and reducing threatening policies and decisions against Iran,' 'weakening dangerous centres', 'strengthening governments and groups who are united and sided with Iran and developing the country's strategic depth', and 'the ability to detect the hidden layers in regional and global decisions and actions.'

Furthermore, mentioning the definition of the three keywords' honour, wisdom and expediency on the stage of foreign policy, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Honour is the refutation of begging diplomacy, both in words and in content, and refraining from paying attention to the words and decisions of the officials of other countries."

He considered non-reliance on principles in foreign policy as a breach of honour and a cause of hesitation, adding, "In all global issues, we move forth honourably relying on principles when conversing, acting and facing the actions of others."

The Leader of the Revolution listed the true definition of 'wisdom' as wise, rational and calculated conduct and speech and said, "Every move in the foreign policy must be wise and well thought-out. Rash and uncalculated decisions have caused harm to the country at times."

He mentioned misplaced distrust in opponents as opposed to the concept of wisdom and stated, "Of course, not every word in the world of politics should be considered a lie because there are honest and acceptable words. However, not all words should be trusted."

Another essential keyword that the Leader elaborated on was expediency, defined as flexibility in necessary cases to bypass difficult obstacles and continue the path set out.

He said, "Maintaining principles does not conflict with expediency in the mentioned sense. Of course, when the concept of heroic flexibility was introduced a few years ago, some individuals inside and outside the country misunderstood it because the term 'expediency' implies finding a way to navigate challenging obstacles and progress towards the intended goal.

Continuing his speech in the gathering of officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ambassadors of the country, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei dubbed 'positive, timely and well thought-out' personal initiatives essential and necessary, especially in the interactions of the ambassadors.

The Leader of the Revolution mentioned the importance of having both quality and quantity in human resources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as recruiting efficient and trustworthy individuals, stating, "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs must hire forces that deeply and wholeheartedly believe in the ideological and political foundations of the Revolution and Islamic Republic and can stand and not bend in the face of the onslaught of the ideological and propagandistic storms of the foreigners with sufficient motivation, a strong will, mobility, and activity."

Expressing his satisfaction with the plan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to hire a young workforce, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei stressed, "A necessary duty of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to protect the motivation, faith, and will of the workforce."

Concluding this part of his speech, the Leader of the Revolution dubbed the representatives of Iran abroad the representatives of the people, and their behaviour reflects the identity and nature of the Iranian nation, saying, "An Iranian diplomat must be a symbol of faith, love for [our] dear Iran, zeal, determination, will, mobility, and hard work, and their speech and conduct must be a source of respect for the Iranian nation."

In another part of his speech, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei referred to Iran's lengthy borders with several and sometimes essential and influential countries, dubbing the current Government's policy of communicating with the neighbouring nations overly imperative and correct, and added, "Foreign hands are actively creating problems between Iran and its neighbours, and you mustn't allow this policy to be realised."

He mentioned that the policy of communicating with Islamic nations, albethey distant, as well as likeminded nations is necessary, stating, "The unprecedented cooperation and shared views between the Islamic Republic of Iran and some major nations on certain international political movements and policies is an opportunity that should be appreciated and used to strengthen relations with those countries."

While discussing the transformation of the current world order and acknowledging its frequent mention in global literature, the Leader of the Revolution referred to the meeting of ambassadors. He stated, 'The transformation in the world order is a long-term and tumultuous process affected by unforeseen events, with different nations having varying opinions and approaches.

He saw the observation and evaluation of global developments and a precise understanding of the direction and events going on behind the scenes as a prerequisite to ushering Iran into its proper position in the new order, saying, "Practical suggestions should be derived according to this observation and evaluation. Both ambassadors and especially heads of delegations also play an important role in this, especially in influential nations."

In the end, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei emphasised once again the importance of foreign policy and its imperative role in administrating and improving the nation, and he added, "While economic and cultural factors are considered when analysing the country's current situation, foreign policy is often overlooked in discussions. A proper successful foreign policy can improve the country's state, while on the other hand, disturbances and problems in foreign policy cause problems in the country's general situation, of which we are not lacking in examples."

At the start of the meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs reported on the activities, programmes and priorities of the 13th Cabinet Ministry of Foreign Affairs to create transformation.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian stated that some of the critical strategies for the 13th Cabinet's Ministry of Foreign Affairs include moving away from a single-field JCPOA policy to create balance in foreign policy, prioritising economic diplomacy, developing non-oil exports and utilising the country's unique transit capacity, focusing on Asia with an emphasis on neighbouring and Islamic nations, supporting the axis of resistance, actively participating in beneficial regional coalitions such as the Eurasian Economic Union, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS, and simultaneously pursuing strategies to neutralise sanctions while negotiating for their removal.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted that over the past twenty months, the President had made eleven foreign trips and other heads of state have made fourteen trips to Iran. He also mentioned that comprehensive, long-term memoranda of understanding had been signed with countries such as China, Russia and Turkey to increase Iran's interactions and trade exchanges.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian mentioned that with over five million Iranians living abroad, the 13th Cabinet is placing particular emphasis on providing service to these compatriots through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.