

Putin Calls Iran's Leader, Sees Chance to End Nuclear Row

By [The Moscow Times](#)

November 18, 2013

The  **Moscow Times**

President Vladimir Putin told Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Monday there was a "real chance" to resolve the international standoff over Tehran's nuclear program.

The Kremlin said Putin and Rouhani had spoken by telephone at the Russian leader's request, two days before negotiators from Iran and six global powers hold their next talks.

"In the context of the Iranian nuclear program, Putin underlined that at the moment a real chance has appeared to find a solution to this long-running problem," the statement said.

It did not say how Rouhani had responded, other than quoting him as saying he approved of Russia's contribution to the talks on Iran's nuclear program.

Putin's upbeat comments followed remarks in which a senior U.S. official said it was possible a deal could be reached when negotiators meet in Geneva from Nov. 20, and Russian Foreign

Minister Sergei Lavrov also voiced optimism.

The six powers — Russia, China, the U.S., Britain, France and Germany — hope the talks can produce an agreement that would be the first step towards a comprehensive deal to end the standoff with Tehran and provide assurances it will not build nuclear weapons. Iran denies seeking a nuclear arsenal.

Putin and Rouhani also discussed the conflict in Syria and expressed support for efforts to convene an international peace conference, the Kremlin said.

A Syrian government delegation met Russian officials on Monday to discuss plans for the peace conference. The U.S., Russia and the United Nations are trying to convene the conference in Geneva to try to end the civil war in the Middle Eastern nation. Interfax said a senior Iranian official was also due in Moscow for talks on Syria.

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