

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

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During the Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly

on

"Climate Change as a Global Challenge"

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madam President;

At the outset, I would like to thank you for holding this informal general debate and also the panelists and special guests for their useful remarks and presentations. I also would like to associate myself with the statement made by H.E. Mr. Faisal Saleh Hayat, Minister for Environment of Pakistan, in his capacity as chairman of the Group of 77 and China, on climate change.

Madam President;

No doubt, climate change adversely affects the daily life of people, across the globe, including human life, human health, environment and biodiversity. Weather-related events such as hurricane, cyclones, drought and desertification are but few examples of the climate change impacts. We cannot and should not ignore the consequences of such events in our daily life. It therefore requires our due attention and vigilance.

To tackle this challenge of global nature, we should attach great importance to the internationally agreed principles as a basis for negotiations and further understanding. These principles include: "common but differentiated responsibilities", "corporate social and environmental responsibility and accountability", as well as "sustainable patterns of production and consumption".

In my delegation's view, climate change should not and could not be considered in isolation and regardless of the other environmental issues or irrespective of the developmental components of sustainable development. The relationship between climate change and economic growth and their mutual impacts are very well recognized. Besides, climate change has its own home at international level, I mean UN climate process, and such gatherings should bring about more clarity on various aspects of climate change and promote the implementation of the commitments made at international level.

Madam President;

We believe that the efforts for mitigation and adaptation should be made in a way that, not only do not hamper, but also support the endeavors of the developing countries in achieving the IADGs including MDGs by 2015. In that context, provision of new and additional financial resources, transfer of advanced technologies including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and enhancement of capacity building in developing countries are imperative.

We also need to address, in the context of climate change, the adverse impacts of continued deforestation, land degradation and desertification on climate change and the need for national plans and actions as well as international cooperation to assist

developing countries in their efforts to prevent deforestation and combat desertification.

In my delegation's view, building the capacity of the nations and communities to deal with natural disasters including whether-related disasters should be seriously on the agenda of the national governments as well as the international community.

Here, I take the opportunity and refer to the historical responsibility of industrialized nations for producing the emissions, and call on these countries to take the lead in reducing the emissions and assist developing countries in their efforts to implement their national and regional plans and projects for mitigation and adaptation.

Madam President;

In my country, certain policies are included in the short term and long-run development plans with a view to combating climate change including by reducing the level of emission production and energy consumption, as well as promoting energy efficiency. Some of these plans and measures include: monitoring the use of energy in heavy industries, installation of air pollution monitoring equipments for measuring the levels of CO, SO₂, NO_x, CH₄, and Particulates in major cities, setting codes and standards for home appliances and buildings, substituting gas oil with natural gas in heating system of residential areas and industry, controlling gas flaring and venting in refineries and oil fields, and changing the gas power plants to combined cycle power plants. Moreover, some other measures are being taken to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy basket of the country, including: establishing several wind and solar farms, starting to use geothermal energy, as well as construction of dams to produce hydropower.

It is worth mentioning that as a policy to reduce emissions and in order to reduce the subsidies on petrol and limit the country's rising petrol consumption, my Government decided last year to stop producing a popular and highly energy-consuming car, namely Peykan, in the country and replaced it with other passenger cars, which are more friendly to the environment. Besides, the Government has recently made a decision, on the basis of which, all Iranian vehicle manufacturers are obliged to install dual-fuel facilities in the produced vehicles, which could run on petrol or gas. In this line, all manufactured automobiles will be gradually converted to dual fuel.

I thank you Madam President.