

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**MINISTRY OF COMMERCE**

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. DR. M. MIRKAZEMI**

**THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF COMMERCE**

**AT**

**TWELFTH UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE**

**AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**In the Name of God,  
the Compassionate, the Merciful**

**Mr. President,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Audience,**

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of Ghana for their hospitality and arrangements made for this landmark Conference. I also thank H.E. Dr. Supachia Panitchpakdi Secretary-General of UNCTAD and his colleagues for the reports presented for our deliberations. I hope that under your leadership, Mr. President, the Conference will be successful in achieving its objectives. I also welcome the offer made by the Government of the State of Qatar to host UNCTAD XIII.

**Mr. President,**

Over the recent decades, the pace of globalization has picked up momentum and interdependence among countries has steadily grown, leading to increased trade exchanges in particular within the framework of the multilateral trading system.

However, this system is plagued with a number of shortcomings including, imposition of burdensome requirements on the acceding countries, lack of balance between the rights and obligations of the newly-acceded countries and minimal liberalization by developed countries in some sectors such as agriculture and movement of labour.

**Mr. President,**

The depreciation of dollar as the dominant currency in trade transactions and foreign investment flows is a reflection of imbalance in the international monetary and financial systems. This undermines the competitive edge

of developing countries and reduces the value of their reserves and assets and erodes the development resources in many of these countries. UNCTAD, in cooperation with the relevant international institutions, should study the issue and come up with appropriate policy options to prevent sharp fluctuation of dominant currencies. Such policy options should also pave the ground for a more participatory and equitable international monetary system.

**Mr. President,**

Inequalities existing in the governance of the world economy have been building up against the interests of developing countries. The stability of the international economic system is seriously jeopardized by the expansion of unilateralism in the system, threats by big powers to use economic pressures against some of the developing countries and by the politicization of economic factors. Some of the domineering powers trumpet slogans of enhancement of competitiveness and productivity, however, in practice they resort to political

tools and instrumental use of the international organizations, rather than increase in productivity, in order to tighten the economic policy space for the independent countries.

**Mr. President,**

Development strategies have been mainly economic growth-based. The spiritual and divine worth of the human person has been often neglected in formulating development strategies. The social crises in today's world, such as shaky family foundations and marred cultural identity of nations, emanate from narrow-minded attitude towards human and inattention to divine religions. We believe the time is ripe for development strategies to focus on core values of justice, fairness and respect for human dignity. In this respect, when charting their national development strategies, countries need to establish justice in tandem with an increase in efficiency. UNCTAD, upon request from individual countries, should conduct necessary studies and come up with practical

methods as to how to materialize the establishment of justice and enhancement of efficiency.

**Mr. President,**

The massacre of the defenseless people of Palestine by the aggressive Zionist regime and inaction of international organizations towards this genocide, and also the presence of foreign forces in Middle-East and the killing of hundreds of thousand innocent people in the region are but clear examples of the injustice that prevails in our world, deprives human beings of their obvious human rights, and impedes their process of economic development. To seriously cope with the situation requires a strong and justice based United Nations.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we emphasize UNCTAD's role in forging universal consensus on trade and development and the interrelated issues and in identifying ways to tackle global challenges. UNCTAD is expected to address the root causes of global crises

including soaring food prices and to assist developing countries in creating consistency between national development strategies and requirements of international trading, financial and monetary systems. On the other hand, the world community should support this organization in order to ensure its continued activity, in fostering genuine and a strong partnership for development in developing countries.

**Thank you**