

**STATEMENT BY ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

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**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**  
**MINISTRY OF COMMERCE**

**STATEMENT BY**

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**MINISTER OF COMMERCE**

**AT UNCTAD XI**

**14-18 JUNE 2004**

**SAO PAULO - BRAZIL**

## **In the Name of God**

**Mr. President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

To start with, I wish to express my warm congratulation to your Excellency on your election to the Presidency of the Eleventh Session of UNCTAD. I hope that under your able leadership this important Session will succeed in achieving its objectives. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Brazilian Government for hosting this important event, and for the hospitality extended to us.

**Mr. President,**

Today, inappropriate approach to globalization has converted this phenomenon into an instrument of unilateral domination, disrupted its potential and actual benefits, and resulted in political instability, declining economic growth and increased poverty. More than 50 countries have become poorer and the prospect does not seem promising.

Adjustment policies have, to a great extent, failed to deliver sustainable and equitable development. Development strategies

have mainly focused on economic growth and disregarded human right to development- a right that is currently being violated in certain countries by occupiers under the pretexts of providing security, fighting terrorism or delivering democracy. Under these circumstances, it is essential that human-being and human dignity be the axis of development. It is equally essential to forge a reasonable balance between "efficiency" and "equity". Therefore, governments need, to formulate and implement economic development strategies in a manner that could establish and sustain this crucial balance.

In the course of trade liberalization, only a handful of developing countries have managed to achieve export diversification, and to boost the share of manufactures in their total exports. Of the 135 developing countries, about 17% have attained a relative degree of development. However, in the majority of these countries, the value of trade has contracted rather than grown, as compared to that of 20 years ago, and countries who embarked on domestic capacity-building have failed to reap any concrete benefits from their efforts.

**Mr. President,**

While more than two-thirds of WTO members are developing countries, the Organization has in practice paid insufficient attention to the development needs of these countries. In order to

**redress this shortcoming, the WTO will need to direct its efforts toward realizing the Doha Development Agenda.**

**Mr. President,**

**In the process of accession to the WTO, developing countries face unnecessary long procedures, imposition of heavy and unaffordable conditions and involvement of issues that are irrelevant to trade: for example, it is now eight years since my country has filed its application for accession, and three years since the General Council has repeatedly considered the case. Nevertheless, a certain member has unduly resorted to the "consensus requirement", postponing our application for accession for the seventeenth time.**

**Mr. President,**

**By its nature, development must be a participative endeavour. It is essential on, one hand for the governments, civil societies, and private sectors to interact with each other in a concerted and constructive manner; and on the other hand, developed and developing countries join efforts in a real partnership, based on long-term mutual interests, in order to Finance, facilitate and accelerate productive capacity-building. In order to lay the groundwork, my country has implemented economic reforms, modified trade and investment regulations, and reinforced the**

private sector; and stands prepared to engage in partnership on the path to equitable and human-centric development.

**Mr. President,**

In order to assist developing countries more effectively, UNCTAD can emphasize the following actions on its agenda:

1. To study the development policy framework of developing countries, and to recommend appropriate models in line with the socio-economic status of these countries, with a view to establishing an optimal balance between efficiency and equity.
2. To assess the impact of the policies and actions of the developed countries, international and regional organizations on trade and development policies of developing countries.
3. To support developing countries in designing and implementing strategies for promoting private enterprises and fostering a competitive economic environment.
4. To give policy advice on facilitating the accession of developing countries to the WTO
5. To create a research and information center to investigate various issues in relation to trade and development, and to

simulate potential scenarios and outcomes by changing key variables involved in the development models.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to Mr. Ricupero, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and his colleagues for their efforts in organizing this important conference. I wish the 11<sup>th</sup> session of UNCTAD great success.

**Thank you,**