

**Statement by:**

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**Islamic Republic of Iran**

**COP18, Doha, Qatar**

**4 December 2012**

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

**Mr. President,**

**Honorable Ministers and Excellencies;**

**Distinguished Delegates;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

At the outset, I would like to express my congratulations to you on your election as the president of COP18. Also my sincere gratitude is expressed to the government and people of Qatar for hosting and excellent organization of this important conference.

**Mr. President,**

I associate myself with the statement made by the representative of Algeria on behalf of G-77 and China. Climate change is a global problem that requires collective political will and action based on fair criteria and equity for sustainable development. In this regard, the historical responsibility of the developed country Parties in the emissions of greenhouse gases and equity in the use of the global atmospheric space should be recognized. We appreciate exhaustless and effective endeavors of your Presidency during the last week of negotiations based on the principles of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. We also welcome progress in some agenda

items of the SBI and SABSTA. However, we are at a critical milestone of our two decades of negotiations and the global community is expecting tangible and comprehensive actions from us here in Doha. We are dissatisfied with the negotiations in context of AWG-LCA and the outstanding issues of LCA should be captured by other subsidiary bodies or Durban Platform. During Durban and Doha Conferences, we have launched the AWG-ADP discussion . The outcome of the negotiation in the context of ADP must prepare a work plan containing key elements of the Convention, Bali Action Plan and Durban decisions. In this regard I would like to reiterate some elements that ADP should include as follows:

The principles of the Convention should guide the discussions of the Durban Platform, and they shall not be renegotiated.

- ADP as an initiative established under the Convention, must be implemented in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities as indicated in Article 3 of the Convention.
- The negotiations should be based on comprehensive issues and address adequately all the agreed outcomes in the previous sessions, particularly all the five pillars of the Bali Action Plan and the agreements of Cancun and Durban.
- As the Cancun Agreement reaffirms, the developed country Parties must show their leaderships by undertaking ambitious emission reductions and in providing financial, technology and capacity-building resources to developing country Parties.
- It is essential that the developed country Parties which are committed to the Kyoto Protocol make clarification on their quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. We believe that the 8-year second commitment period is appropriate to avoid any gap between the existing legally binding Kyoto protocol and the future one that will be developed under the ADP. Those Annex Parties which have not ratified the KP or have withdrawn from the second commitment period should implement their commitment under the Convention.
- Mitigation in developing countries will be not feasible if there is no financial, technology and capacity building assistance from developed country Parties, as pointed out in Article 4.7 of the Convention.
- Transfer of technology to developing country parties should not be conditioned, for example subject to IPR, without any discrimination among developing countries.

- Funding for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries should be provided largely from public resources of developed countries. Without concrete commitments of funding, the developing countries cannot achieve the goals of mitigation and adaptation required to cope with the climate crisis.
- The issue of the impact of response measures has been with us from the outset of the Convention. Different groups of countries have their respective vulnerabilities as consequences of the spill-over effects of policies and measures of Annex I Parties. So far there has been no serious action by those parties and thus this issue should be undertaken under the ADP.

**Mr. President,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran is highly vulnerable to climate change, in particular with respect to water resources, agriculture, forestry, biodiversity and human health. Long-term droughts, heat waves, temperature and precipitation fluctuations and destructive floods are threatening the food security and have created massive migration of people. We have taken important steps to adapt to climate change at legislative level to enhance the productivity of our natural resources by integrated management of these resources, increase carbon sequestration in desert areas, decrease land degradation, reduction of fertilizers consumption and increase the forests and vegetation land coverage.

Dust and sand storm is one of the most serious and hard-to-beat impacts of climate change, inflicting substantial damage to the socio-economic life in Iran and many countries of our region during last few years, impairing the normal life and health of the people, eroding agricultural lands and polluting water resources throughout the area.

This is a region-wide problem and in addition to a firm national determination in all countries involved, requires regional and global cooperation and interaction. In the framework of regional cooperation to combat this challenge, Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted a regional Ministerial environmental session including Iraq, Turkey, Syrian Arab Republic, and Qatar on 29 September 2010, in Tehran, in which they agreed to cooperate to bring dust and sand storms under control over the next five years.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, bearing in mind the damages that other countries are suffering, stands ready to enter into bi-lateral and multilateral/regional arrangements to identify the root

causes of the problem and to eradicate it in a collective region-wide manner. Therefore, cooperation and coordination among stricken countries is essential for any successful plan of action.

Regarding mitigation, emission of GHGs from agriculture and forestry in Iran, compared with the global emissions in these sectors, is relatively low at 9% and 2 %, respectively. In addition, the energy consumption in agriculture sector has been improved by substitution of heavy fuels with clean energies of natural gas and electricity. In the energy sector with contribution of over 75% to GHGs national emissions, significant steps have been taken in power sector, renewables and energy efficiency to mitigate climate change. In the oil, gas and petrochemicals sectors alone, our national activities to reduce GHGs emissions in recent years have been presented here at COP-18 as a side event. The most important actions include energy pricing policies, energy efficiency and alternative energies, notably natural gas.

**Mr. President,**

All developing countries including Iran are willing to participate in GHGs reduction provided that they are supported financially and technically by the developed country parties, based on the principles of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and the decisions of the COP in recent years, especially MRVs for support.

**Mr. President,**

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the Research Institute of Petroleum Industries (RIPI) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in collaboration with several relevant national institutions and organizations, was among the 9 eligible proponents to host the CTCN as announced by the UNFCCC Secretariat. RIPI and its affiliated national institutions, in their capacity, experience and capabilities in particular in the oil, gas and petrochemical industries, and in general in the energy sector are ready for full cooperation with UNEP and its joint venture to serve as regional center of west Asia.

Thank you very much.