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Statement by :

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madam President,

Honorable Ministers and Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I would like to congratulate you on your election as the president of COP17/CMP7. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the government and people of South Africa for hosting this important conference in this beautiful city of Durban and to the UNFCCC Secretariat for excellent organization of this conference and its continuous efforts to advance the objectives of the Convention.

Madam President,

Statistics and trends illustrate a vision not in human well-being's favor. Since 1992, the birth of UNFCCC, the emissions of CO₂ has risen globally by 36% until 2008. Global CO₂ emissions continue to rise, with 80% emitted by only 19 countries. At the current rate of GHGs emissions, in less than 15 years the world shall face the 1.5 C° temperature rise target threshold.

Madam President,

It is surprising to witness during the recent years that Annex I countries have not only failed to fulfill their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol in the first commitment period, but also are refusing to accept the second commitment period and are even pushing to terminate the Kyoto Protocol. Pledges, voluntary emission reductions and bilateral agreements should not substitute a multilateral and international treaty such as the Kyoto Protocol under a UN Convention. Alternatives to the Kyoto flexible mechanisms also weaken the treaty and its market. The CDM mechanism is a valuable international experience that should be sustained. The present status of negotiation is a very delicate situation and out of sense of responsibility, I am extremely concerned.

The Kyoto Protocol is the only legally binding agreement under the UNFCCC to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and I strongly support its effectiveness and continuation for the second and subsequent 5-year commitment periods according to its Article 3.9. Those Annex I countries that are not Parties to the Kyoto Protocol should fulfill their commitments under AWG-LCA. Developing countries cannot participate in greenhouse gas mitigation actions under MRV unless they are supported, also under MRV by Annex I Parties financially and technologically.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to inform you that the Islamic Republic of Iran has ambitious plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation and has implemented several large scale projects in this regard. The most important step that Iran has taken is the energy pricing reform and lifting the subsidies as of 2009. This has had great influence on the energy consumption in all sectors. I would like to highlight some of these activities:

Iran Second National Communication to UNFCCC was submitted in November 2011 just before COP17 and was presented here in Durban as a side event on Monday, December 5.

In the power sector, programs for greenhouse gas emission reduction during the 5th 5-Year Development Plan, starting 2011 include the following:

- Energy efficiency improvement of power plants to reach 43%,
- Reduction of the losses of electric power network annually by 1%,
- Implementation of conversion of gas turbines to combined cycle of at least 3000 MW,
- 27.5% growth in hydropower and 90.2% growth in wind power,
- Implementation of small solar power plants, photovoltaic systems and other renewable energies,
- Establishing energy labeling.

In the oil, gas and petrochemical sectors, the major activities include:

- Flare gas recovery plans in the oil and gas industries up to 99%,
- Substitution of heavy liquid fuels by natural gas,
- Reduction of methane leakage from compression stations and pipelines,
- Carbon dioxide capture in major plants for CCS applications,
- Carbon management and CDM potentials in the natural gas industries.

In the agriculture, forestry and natural resources sectors:

- Enhancing the protection of the natural forests and rangelands by increasing the vegetation coverage,
- Increasing the carbon sequestration in the rangelands by 2% annually on the average,
- Reducing the number of livestock in the rangelands and forests to reach ecological equilibrium,
- Increasing the protection factor of forests from the current level of 40% to 90%,
- Increasing the per capita forest coverage from the current level of 1700 square meters to 2500 square meters.

In the health sector, a national working group has recently been established by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

COP16 in Cancun created some hope for UNFCCC Parties by making decisions such as maintaining the two track negotiations under the Convention, establishing the basis for the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, enhanced mitigation and adaptation, technology and financial mechanisms. After several terms of extension, the mandate of the two Adhoc Working Groups, AWG-LCA and AWG-KP are to be concluded here in Durban. We hope that the Cancun decisions will become operational and the Durban conference is the place to make appropriate decisions in this direction.

In conclusion,

Islamic Republic of Iran in coherence with most developing countries of G77 & China emphasizes the following issues:

- Avoid unilateral trade restrictions and imposing exports limitations to developing countries due to environmental treaties such as climate change,
- Full and unrestricted access to environmental friendly technologies,
- Consideration of the "*impacts of response measures*" on developing countries, particularly those whose economies are highly dependent on the production and export of oil and gas.
- Institutional inter-relationship between the financial mechanism under the Convention and mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and capacity building.

Finally, my Government is ready for full collaboration with international community and we are looking for complete implementation of the Convention and continuation of the Kyoto Protocol.

Thank you very much for your attention.