

In the Name of Allah the Compassionate, the
Merciful

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Please Check Against Delivery

Distinguished Heads of States and Governments,

Distinguished Secretary General of the United
Nations,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the UN for leading the constructive dialogue and France for its leadership and support for these climate negotiations by hosting the COP21. We have come to Paris also to show our sympathy and solidarity with the government and people of France, at a time that terrorism has taken its terrible toll not only now in Europe, but also in many other countries, particularly in my region.

World leaders have gathered here today to join efforts to embark upon two journeys: one in pursuit of the protection of our planet earth; the other for the sake of peace and friendship. We have ignored and denied the favors of our Creator in one way or another and now we realize the need to change the course towards a more sustainable life style by making up for our wrongdoings and sins.

I wish to make an important point in this Summit. The UN is responsible for maintaining global peace and security. War, insecurity and terrorism have ravaged many parts of the world and particularly Africa and West Asia for several decades now. Some powerful political lobbies, the arm industries and the oil cartels, all seem to benefit from ongoing insecurity and conflicts. Those perpetuating conflicts are accomplices of the global warming process. The human toll has been devastating but in addition these conflicts have an environmental toll and a “carbon footprint” which is also frightening. I wish to urge the UN system to initiate an assessment on the carbon footprints of wars, conflicts, insecurity and terrorism.

We need a genuine global resolve to condemn terror and to address its root causes and pretexts in a serious manner. Terrorist leaders and their sponsors intentionally abuse the name of Islam, the religion which alludes to peace in its name, to spread fear and hatred, whereas Islam preaches compassion not only among humanity but with nature and all forms of creation as well.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has now set a milestone in terms of active diplomacy in resolving a long term conflict on the nuclear issue, leading to the lifting of unjust sanctions and ensuring a peaceful outcome to a specific issue in a volatile region. The Islamic Republic of Iran is both flexible and pro-active in implementing important strategies to promote peace and stability and is also committed to improving the state of the environment at all levels.

In the last month the Supreme Leader issued the General Policies of the Environment, a forward looking manifesto for sustainable development and protection of the environment in Iran. It is also a

strong sign of solidarity with the international community for protection of our planet earth.

President Rouhani, despite the various challenges, has also set out a transitional course to achieve a very robust low carbon and green economy for Iran. Iran has announced in its INDC that is ready to mitigate its GHGs emission by 4% and an additional 8% reduction subject to termination of all sanctions, the transfer of technology and capacity building.

Of course climate change has taken its toll on Iran. We have witnessed a serious decrease in rainfall in the past 30 years, an increase in temperature and increased incidence of dust storms, thus making Iran even more vulnerable

Our new water conservation strategy addresses one of the major national challenges Iran is now dedicated to conserve 23 billion cubic meters of water while reducing water consumption and allocation by 25%-30% during the current decade.

Protecting our vast areas of wetlands and combating dust storms with major transboundary sources while monitoring and ameliorating the growth of hotspots within our borders is yet another pressing national challenge.

Iran being committed to a sustainable green environment, acknowledges informed public participation as its greatest asset. In this new atmosphere environmental NGOs have grown to 750 active civil society groups. Green technologies, renewable and solar energy combined with wind and waste management are important factors in transforming unhelpful past habits into future gains. The government now provides incentives for such technologies. Turning waste into energy, wastewater into clean, renewed and usable sources

and harnessing energy that heretofore has been ignored spell Iran's new strategy for energy mix.

Now that we are on the threshold of a new agreement to enhance the implementation of the Convention and curb global warming, I need to emphasize certain points of importance considered as key to successful outcome in Paris:

- This agreement should take a balanced approach with respect to all ADP elements and aspects of the UNFCCC, its principles, provisions and objectives, particularly CBDR.
- We need to ensure that this agreement enjoys built in novelty in its requirements and implementation mechanisms, especially in its means of implementation that are critical for the—contribution of all parties. Sincerity in commitments and pertinent complementary actions to meet former unfulfilled commitments and building necessary institutions and arrangements for pre 2020 and onwards is also critical for our success in post 2020.
- We need to ensure that this agreement is inclusive for all including the most vulnerable islands and the least developing countries to be developed and not to be left behind.
- We need to be able to take pride in a practical agreement desirable for all parties to join and implement in face of the current and future generations.
- We need to make certain that this agreement is based upon meaningful mitigation actions and commitments by developed country parties and voluntary contribution on behalf of the developing nations in the context of their INDCs, which is unprecedented since 1992 and indicates the sincerity of their intentions This should remain as INDCs for developing nations and ambitious national determined

commitments (NDCs) for the developed blocks and countries.

- We need to ensure that the agreement has the necessary means and momentum to respond effectively to the swift changes in climate, for all particularly the developing countries including mobilizing foreign investments for adaptation. Governments should lead to encourage and guide investments and mobilize the private sector for these objectives.
- The agreement needs to take a rational approach, this is the main direction needed in the upcoming negotiations where the “Pragmatic Paris Package” will take shape in an inclusive, transparent and balanced manner, with the genuine resolve and political leadership of nations involved. This should make certain ambitious collaboration for both pre and post 2020 goals and objectives.
- We need to ensure that the agreement undertakes the immediate needs of developing nations particularly the response measures for their economy and sustainable development goals (SDGs) including the loss and damage in areas such as droughts, floods dust and haze phenomena.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has initiated its mitigation plans well before 2020. We will proceed with a potential of mitigating an annual average of 100 MTons between 2021-2030 leading to 200 MTons of CO2 equivalent at the end of this period.

While we believe that this new agreement is indispensable not only for protecting life on planet earth but also for multilateralism, peace and cooperation in today's world, we also know that it should be balanced and fair and must encompass essential requirements like poverty eradication, security, peace and improved governance. Visionary

and courageous leaders are needed to curb greed, hatred and violence both against humanity and against nature.

I wish to end by quoting from Holy Quran on the miracle of **balance**.

“And we did not create the heavens and earth and that between them in play. We have not created them but in truth...”

Qur'an 44: 38

“He raised the heaven and established the **balance**

So that you would not transgress the **balance**.

Give just weight – do not skimp in the **balance**.

He laid out the earth for all living creatures.”

Qur'an 55: 7-10

Those who have disrupted the **balance** of the natural order are now responsible for restoring the human and ecological equilibrium of creation.

Thank you.