

Statement by:

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"Contribution of UNEP to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development"

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In the name of God

Mr. Chairman,

Dr. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of UNEP,

Honorable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the out set I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the government and the people of Kenya as well as Dr. Achim Steiner and his colleagues for excellent planning and hosting the world's environmental leaders. I pray to the God all mighty for their continuous success and global peace and security for all.

Moreover, I would like to extend my gratitude to the panel members for their constructive comments and support the position taken by the Group of 77 and China on the cooperation of UNEP with the UN world summit on sustainable Development as stated by the distinguished representative of Argentina.

Excellencies,

We are only one year away from the (Rio+ 20) Conference and the world is anxiously waiting to hear what we have accomplished so far and similarly wishes to have a glimpse of the plans we have prepared for their future. I believe that after two decades from the first Sustainable Development Summit, its main objectives are well accepted and the challenges to its attainment are identified to some extent.

Thus, it is expected from the Rio 2012 to commence a great global movement for the implementation of Millennium Development Goals, such as eradication of poverty, food security, health improvement and creation of job opportunities.

As you all well know, the world is facing new and serious challenges like climate change, energy security, food and water shortages, desertification and natural disasters, which are creating a profound gap between the three pillars of sustainable development. In face of these changes and the ever-increasing environmental challenges, it is time to respond to these new constraints, demands, needs in an innovative manner and provide suitable solutions.

In recent years, positive steps have been taken to identify global challenges by the UN-Sustainable Development Commission with the cooperation of UNEP in various fields like transportation, waste management, chemical substances, mining and framework model for production and consumption patterns. In this regard, the CSD 19 could provide development polices that ensure environmental sustainability as the corner stone of integrated global efforts to properly utilize scientific and financial capacities for the attainment of above-mentioned objectives.

Excellencies,

We appreciate the valuable efforts of UNEP Governing Council and the Global Ministers of environment Forum in identifying the future priorities of sustainable development including “Green Economy” and holistic interpretation of "**Good International Environment Governance**". Moreover, it is expected that in (Rio+ 20) Conference, a tangible definition of “Green Economy” and specific guidelines on GIEG would generate a profound international movement toward sustainable development. Undoubtedly, lack of a holistic definition could hamper the identification of opportunities and pose potential dangers to national and international policies due to political, social and environmental concerns. Also, this could possibly limit the success of Rio Conference in 2012.

Certainly, the preparatory process of the forthcoming "Earth Summit" has a number of practical requirements. This process is to be holistic and all inclusive to consider major issues such as:

- 1- Assessment of past Implemented performances,
- 2- Assessment of multilateral legal instruments formulation,
- 3- Assessment of real shortcomings,
- 4- Assessment of global commitments, especially those by the developed countries,
- 5- Assessment of realistic attainable objectives,
- 6- Assessment of actions taken during the previous decade,
- 7- Assessment of successes and achievement , and finally
- 8- Assessment of future potentials to move forward.

Mr. Chairman, In conclusion,

There are concerns, questions and expectations with regard to the successful conduct of the forthcoming Earth Summit; I seek transparent response to the following issues:

- A) The Global Environmental Outlook (GEO), as the top UNEP evaluator, has successfully assessed the world environmental status and has identified the current challenges. However, has it been able to provide a transparent picture of the future as well?
- B) The global sustainable development is no longer an alternative amongst an array of options, rather it is a necessity. But, has the entire commitments and opportunities of the international community been accurately developed to meet this necessity?

I believe that the global community's expectations from (Rio+ 20) are to remove the following obstacles;

- First: The prominence of developed countries' national interest is in obvious disagreement with the international needs. The emphasis of these countries on preservation of their current standards of welfare hampers the initiatives to provide the minimum requirements for the wellbeing of the developing countries and is an obstacle to successful conclusion of international conferences. In other words, it is very difficult converging two completely different global perspectives. Hopefully, stressing on spiritual and divine values of human nature could provide a common ground a nature to settle these differences.
- Second: Natural disasters experienced during the past two decades like floods, hurricanes, droughts, dust and storms and melting of glaciers are to be considered as the new natural realities. In other words, ignoring our role in mistreatment of nature, incurs heavy and irreversible significant expenses on the global community. Thus, it is our duty to attain a "**Common Belief**" with regard to our common but differenced responsibilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, I am proud to inform you that the Islamic Republic of Iran is hosting the world's national focal points and high-level officials to attend the "Global Forum on Wetlands of Future. This is to promote sustainable development and preservation of the wetlands, as one of the most important living ecosystems on this planet. This conference would commemorate the 40th Anniversary of signing the Ramsar Convention, as the oldest environmental legal instrument in the world. Hopefully, the full participation of distinguished ministers in this Global Forum would result in a strong and strategic declaration before the Rio 2012 Summit.

Thank you for your attention and patience