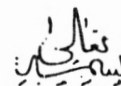




*Embajada de la
República Islámica del Irán
Buenos Aires*



En su Venerado Nombre

Statement by Prof. Taghi Ebtekar

Head of Delegation

Of

The Islamic Republic of Iran

The Fourth Session of the Conference of the

Parties

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Buenos Aires : 12 November, 1998

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

At the outset, allow me Madame President to congratulate you on your well-deserved election as the President of this significant Conference of the Parties. I would also like to extend my deep thanks to the people and Government of Argentina for their warm hospitalities.

I cannot help mentioning the name of San Martin, "padre de la patria Argentina", for his historical contribution to the advancement and freedom of this great Nation.

The current civilization of the mankind is based on technological development which is achieved at the expense of global environmental degradation. Towards the end of the twentieth century, despite the progress gained on the field of renewable energies, more than 90 percent of world energy consumption is based on the combustion of fossil fuels, mainly due to low prices of the latter fuels.

Madam, President;

Climate change is a global concern that affects humankind. Hence, only a universal solution is required to protect the climate system. We are of the view that the Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol are two important steps towards the achievement of that goal.

The industrialized countries, known as Annex-I Parties, acknowledged in Berlin in 1995 that their commitments under the Convention to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions are not adequate. Therefore, in Kyoto, in 1997, They undertook some minor additional commitments to achieve the objective of the Convention. Today, in Buenos Aires, in 1998, we are to make the second review of the adequacy of commitments of those countries under the same provision of the Convention. We do not consider within the context of the Convention any demand towards calling developing nations for suffering further, for not combating poverty, for giving up development, economic growth, social security, health and public education, by introducing new commitments in the so-called form of "voluntary commitments" or under any other name. In fact, only full implementation of the current commitments of Annex-I Parties under the Convention

and also under the Kyoto Protocol, including their commitments concerning transfer of environmentally sound technology and provision of financial resources will facilitate the implementation of the obligations of developing countries under Article 4/1.

There is a wide understanding that climate change render double adverse effects on developing nations. First, if industrial countries do not take action to combat climate change, developing countries will be at the forefront to suffer its adverse impacts, among which, drought, flood, desertification and sea-level rise. Second, they will be the first to encounter the negative consequences of response measures. Article 4/8 and 4/9 of the Convention and Articles 3/14 and 2/3 of the Kyoto Protocol rightly commit developed Parties to fully consider that double effect of climate change on developing countries and also provide them with necessary safeguards. In the light of this argument, implementation of the commitments of Annex-I Parties under the Articles mentioned above, is an indispensable part of their general commitments to mitigate GHGs emissions.

In conclusion, we believe that adverse human influence on the environment of the planet may not be removed, unless human being acknowledge the moral and spiritual values. In this context, it is the right time to draw your attention to the recent findings made known in UN Headquarter in N.Y. by a research team at Harvard University voicing more than one thousand social scientists, economists, politicians, religious thinkers and scholars from major religions of the world, which I quote: "In order to solve global environmental problems, there is no choice for mankind but to return to moral and religious values".

Thank you, Madam President.