

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Hojjat, Deputy Head of the Department of the
Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**At the Ministerial Round-table ,
COP-9/Milan, December 11, 2003.**

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honor for me to present this statement at COP-9. First of all, I would like to thank the government of Italy for hosting this event and express my appreciations to the UNFCCC Secretariat for organizing this conference.

- 1-According to its constitution, the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to protect the environment for present and future generations. In line with this obligation, Iran has been playing, and will continue to play, a proactive and constructive role in the global climate change debate.
- 2-As a Non-Annex I Party, Iran has submitted its Initial National Communication in March 2003. Furthermore, we are currently working on the technology needs assessment to mitigate climate change and the assessment of the national climate observation system to be communicated to COP in early 2004.
- 3-We were pleased to host an international workshop on economic diversification in Tehran in last October, organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat, in which fruitful discussions were conducted. I hope that COP-9 will make substantive deliberations on the outcome of this workshop and agree on a framework for its effective follow-up. Economic diversification is a win-win option for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change as well as the impacts of response measures in developing countries. Also in last October, Iran hosted the Third Regional Conference on Climate Change with collaboration of WMO and UNDP.
- 4-We believe that the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" remains to be fully implemented, as we witness obstacles and barriers to the transfer of technology and financial

resources. We hope that the Expert Group on Technology Transfer will expedite its work in identifying such obstacles and barriers and make concrete recommendations to remove them.

5-The country has taken important steps towards mitigation of climate change. These include the substitution of natural gas as a primary energy source, establishment of laws and regulations for energy efficiency and energy conservation in different sectors. We are now aiming at the incorporation of the climate change concerns into the Fourth National Development Plan, whose implementation is expected to commence in mid 2004.

May I express my best wishes for a successful conference here in Milan.

Thank You.