



Statement of

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and

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before

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The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

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(Check against delivery)



In the Name of God , the Compassionate , the Merciful

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

In the endless quest for betterment and advancement, the paradigms of social, economic and human development have set a common destiny for mankind. Today more than ever before, environmental issues have resulted in a convergence of views and efforts, bringing us together to decide for the improvement of our societies and the prosperity of our future generations.

Human interventions have distorted the balance of nature, resulting in environmental degradation. Climate Change is widely recognized to be a universal, environmental, economic and social concern and thus requires a global partnership to address this issue. Inspired by the rational and ethical principle that "the polluter should pay", this global partnership could only be actualized based upon the understanding that our responsibilities are common but differentiated .

Being exposed to the impacts of Climate Change, the Islamic Republic of Iran while ratifying the UNFCCC, has actively participated in the process of international deliberations on the issue. The successful implementation of several measures such as reforestation, desertification control and emissions regulations, has demonstrated the importance Iran attaches to the implementation of the Convention in its totality.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is participating in Kyoto in good faith, along with hopes and expectations, to contribute to the success of the Third Conference of The Parties.

Mr. President,

The Berlin Mandate unveils the official recognition by the global community that the developed world is required to treat Climate Change issues, including both impacts and mitigation effects with a serious and dedicated commitment.

Sustained economic growth, social justice, and poverty eradication are legitimate prerequisites to sustainable development for developing countries in the world.

Before the actual materialization of promises made by industrialized countries, including technology transfer and financial assistance, it seems unfair that developing countries should undertake considerations that could seriously hinder their pace of development and damage their fragile economies.

The core issue in Kyoto concerns a final agreement on QELROs for Annex 1 parties, as the prime objective of the Berlin Mandate process. Efforts aimed at deviating the Conference from reaching an agreement on this issue could undermine the success of the Conference. In this spirit the concept of the "evolution of future commitments" is recognized as unjustified and unacceptable.

Policies and measures are to be considered only as means and ways to achieve the ultimate objectives of the Convention. The purely trade and economic interests of certain Annex 1 countries should not be regarded as the determining factor in the Kyoto Conference. Therefore, alongside response measures, Annex 1 countries, in their utilization of policies and measures, need to attach priority to restructuring their energy policies. The current ranking of taxation on fossil fuels should be amended to reflect the true carbon content of each fuel.

The Conference should give full consideration to actions necessary to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries, as listed in the Convention, and as acknowledged and reflected in the outcome of the COW work.

(Among the key remaining issues, the Rules of Procedure for COP are yet subject to adoption by the parties. It is realized

that adoption of the Kyoto Protocol requires prior adoption of Rules of Procedure.)

The dynamic causes of Climate Change have resulted in the evolving of a variety of greenhouse gases known to be responsible for all the adverse effects attributed to this phenomena. Therefore, it is essential that developed countries address the control of at least the 6 known greenhouse gases.

The significant efforts of the IPCC and SBSTA as the supportive scientific and research bodies of UNFCCC, is appreciated. However, present controversial issues before us point to the need to continued research and exchange of findings with other independent scientific bodies that also share concerns to elucidate the facts.

Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Government of Japan for their kind hospitality and their superb choice of venue for the Conference in Kyoto, a historic setting that clearly conveys the spirit of environmental concerns. (Also our sincere appreciation to the UNFCCC Secretariat for their efforts in convening this Conference and making it a success.)

We are confident that COP3 will succeed in achieving global consensus on the common path we have ahead of us. Environmental issues look beyond short term and limited interests, they deal with human values and the eternal quest for betterment. More than all, sustainable development deals with a commitment beyond our egocentric goals, a commitment for future generations and for the human race with "Environmental Ethics".

Thank You.