

IRAN

In the Name of God, the Compassionate The Merciful

*Mr. President,
Excellencies
Distinguished delegates*

At the outset, I would like to express my felicitations for your assumption as the President of COP6. I seize this opportunity to appreciate warmly the Government and people of the Netherlands for their hospitality.

We have gathered here in the Hague to respond to the concerns of billions of inhabitants of the world over environmental degradation, as manifested by climate change. We, as the policy makers, responsible for the environment, shoulder an onerous responsibility. Time is of essence.

Coming from the Islamic Republic of Iran, I feel it is necessary to elucidate some of the perspectives that the current world state-of-affairs entails. Deliberations on some of the more fundamental issues may provide Parties broader insight into the direction we need to take to resolve the global environmental crises of our times.

The time is ripe to move fast and to adopt a policy of flexibility, understanding and accommodation. This, in turn, requires long-term interest-seeking mentality and to do away with the shackles of old mindsets. Given the growing ecological and economic interdependence, we have to grasp that we share a common future and the same interest. To put it in a nutshell, we are all sitting in one boat and if it sinks, we would all sink.

Mr. President

Despite successive COPs and much deliberation, we have not seen any serious movement from words to deeds. The crux of the matter is that what Member States and Parties have subscribed to within the Rio Declaration and the Convention on Climate Change is either ignored or misinterpreted.

Regrettably, there is a spectacular distance between commitments and action on the part of the wealthy countries with regard to what is mostly urgent for the

development of developing nations. Technology transfer and financial resources are two cornerstones of those commitments.

Technology transfer is far from being realized. Apart from the inaction by Annex II Parties, the absence of specific mechanisms for its materialization, in our view, has been a main reason. That is why we need to embark , in all earnest , on defining effective and transparent mechanisms for technology transfer. We believe that there is every and necessity to resolve these issues and ensure a viable technology transfer mechanism and an appropriate funding process.

I sincerely hope that this conference would succeed in finalizing such mechanisms. For, failure to do this would cause serious setbacks in constructive engagement of developing countries in the global drive towards sustainable development.

In spite of domestic economic growth needs, the Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken a serious commitment towards sustainable development. An increasingly vibrant civil society is emerging to ensure the democratic dimensions of state policy.

An increased number of combined cycle power plants have been constructed and most facilities consumed natural gas as opposed to heavier fuels. The promotion of natural gas in industrial and urban applications, the initiation of large scale reforestation and rangeland conservation, projects for more effective agriculture management, the preparation of the national inventory on GHGs and capacity building in tandem with social mobilization, represent some of the achievements at the national level. In addition, parliament has undertaken several initiatives on the environment including the formation of a “ Green “ faction that could facilitate the introduction of green legislation.

Today's world is pockmarked with numerous afflictions. We humans who have brought these conditions into being are the only agents that can reverse the process. In order for us to change our destiny, we need to nurture the flame of hope kindling in all of our hearts. Great individual and collective movements ultimately begin with the human heart. It will prove to be the most efficient engine in driving the sustainable environmental agenda forward.

Thank you Mr. President