

**STATEMENT NO. 1: IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)**

(on behalf of the Group of 77 and China)

There could not be a happier occasion for the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China than this very moment to express our best felicitations on an achievement of historical significance and import: an accomplishment under very trying circumstances, an honourable deal indeed!

Allow me, Mr. President, my dear Minister Pronk, to congratulate you and your colleagues, and Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar and his colleagues in the secretariat, for your excellent and hard work and perseverance for so many months now, and more specifically, since last week here in Bonn – not to mention a sleepless night of marathon negotiations. An excellent outcome for really good work. Three cheers to all of you!

The agreement we have just reached is the final outcome of a multilateral process that has gone through a winding, bumpy road – all of us directly engaged in the process know exactly what that means. But, notwithstanding all kinds of difficulties and the rather familiar pull and push in international intergovernmental negotiations, we, the intergovernmental body in its entirety, managed to rise to the challenge of the moment and finish the unfinished work of The Hague. The significance of what we achieved here in Bonn does not merely relate to the climate change process and the further operationalization of the Convention and progress on the Kyoto Protocol – important as they are. Rather, it signifies the centrality of the concept of international cooperation for higher common objectives of the global community. The success in Bonn cannot but be the very direct outcome of dialogue, mutual understanding and a sense of conciliation and compromise.

Everybody here remembers vividly the message in the statement I read on behalf of the Group of 77 and China last Thursday, 19 July. It was a message of engagement, commitment and hope. We said in clear and unambiguous words that we came here with the resolve to make the Bonn meeting a real success. We promised to extend a helping hand to the international community on an important and yet sensitive area of global commons. We came here for real, genuine cooperation with our developed partners in the North.

This occasion and this moment confirm what I said at the very beginning of that statement – with my allusion to a Persian proverb that *“words coming from the heart do indeed touch the heart.”* We reached out, and they reached out. And here is the outcome: representing the triumph of multilateralism and cooperation over unilateralism. This should, no doubt, augur well for the future of this process and other multilateral processes. Let us hope the achievement here today will prove conducive to the early re-engagement of all members of the international community in the continuation of the process.

I would like to seize this opportunity to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all negotiating partners for their openness, sense of conciliation and cooperation, and above all, their political will and political acumen not to miss the chance – fleeting as such moments are. I should as well express my most sincere words of gratitude to the members of the Group of 77 and China and the coordinators for their excellent work, support and cooperation throughout the whole process. It was only through the solidarity of the Group of 77 and China that negotiations on behalf of the developing world could be undertaken, with mandate

and authority. I thank all my dear brothers and sisters in the Group. Let me assure them all that the work of the Group will be pursued with the same sense of commitment, and vigour towards the unity and solidarity of the Group.

I end with words on a note of renewed hope and resolve for the further cooperative work lying ahead of all of us.