

Statement by
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Representative of the I.R. of Iran
before the
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting
on "Energy for Sustainable Development"
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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman;
Distinguished participants;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

~~Out~~ ^{At} the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your well deserved election as chairman of the 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. I am confident that under your leadership we would be able to reach tangible results in setting policy options and practical measures during the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting as well as the 15th Session of the Commission on the four themes of the agenda, including energy for sustainable development.

It goes without saying that energy will play a significant role in achieving development, in general, and the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular. Evaluation of energy should be done in the context of the balanced criteria such as reliability, affordability as well as being economically viable, socially acceptable, and environmentally sound. At this juncture, setting realistic policies based on the needs, taking into account the implications, and also adoption of appropriate measures at national, regional, and international levels, could lead us to tangible results by 2015. In this regard, one can not rule out the dominant role the fossil fuels are playing, at present and decades to come, in providing the energy needed in all sectors across the globe. Nor can anybody deny the necessity for research and utilization of new and renewable energy sources in order to conserve natural resources and protect the environment.

Mr. Chairman;

In order to set appropriate policies on energy and to materialize its potential to reach the envisaged goals for sustainable development, several parameters including regional and international cooperation, access to and availability of energy sources, energy efficiency, diversification of sources of energy, and means of implementation are of paramount importance. To this end, in my delegation's view, the following policies and measures are required:

1. Formulation of national plans and actions on access to energy which contain clear policies, timetables and measures for expansion of energy services to all citizens particularly poor people in rural and remote areas. Access to energy alleviates poverty, promotes health and escalates the opportunity for education and employment. Equally important is setting programs for energy efficiency in national plans and strategies and allocating more resources to the activities

on energy efficiency at national, regional and international levels. Energy efficiency reduces the costs, decreases production of emissions, and reduces the use of the natural resources. In this regard, there is a need for the increase in the efforts to adopt certain energy efficiency standards that are technically feasible and economically justified, taking into account national conditions;

2. Expanding investment in energy efficiency technologies, supporting the transfer of such technologies to countries in need, including through innovative sources of funding such as clean development mechanism;
3. Facilitate capital flows into power generation, including to build new and more efficient power plants, upgrading existing plants, construct transmission lines, develop interregional energy infrastructures to exchange electrical power;
4. Promote diversification of energy sources through application of cleaner fossil fuel technologies, increased use of renewable energy as well as the other sources of energy;
5. Support the establishment or upgrading the existing infrastructures for energy transport and storage including establishment of pipelines from energy producing countries to the market;
6. Enhance capacity building in developing countries at national and regional levels;
7. Promote information sharing, education and launching trading courses;
8. Increase the contributions of the United Nations system as well as multilateral development banks, including IFIs and GEF, to the projects related to energy efficiency and access to energy;
9. Gradual transition to the use of cleaner liquid and gaseous fossil fuels, including through transfer of related advanced technologies, on preferential terms, for production and utilization in residential areas, transport, industry, and creating appropriate conditions for LNG investment and trade;
10. Facilitate the provision of affordable and advanced technologies to developing countries, including oil producing and exporting countries, for transforming solid fuels to liquid or gaseous fuels, controlling gas flaring and venting, utilizing carbon capture and storage technologies, and applying technology to recapture the energy contained in wastes;
11. Building the resilience of the energy-related facilities to natural disasters;
12. Enhance the role of the civil society in planning and implementation of energy-related policies and also the role of private sector in establishment and management of energy facilities, including power plants and distribution networks.

Mr. Chairman;

Last but not least, Mr. Chairman, it is crucial to have political will from the part of all governments, create favorable conditions at national, regional and global levels, as well as the responsibilities and further commitment of industrialized countries in order to materialize the policy options and practical measures, we are going to set in this august forum. My delegation is ready to participate in the negotiations. Your Excellency can count on my delegation's support and cooperation with you and the distinguished bureau members.

I thank you;