

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by:

Mr. Saeid Zahedi

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
on  
"Drought"  
Before

The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting of CSD-17

in New York,

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madame Chair;  
Distinguished delegates;

At the outset, I associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Sudan on behalf of G-77 and China on sustainable development and on the theme "Drought". Drought is a regional phenomenon that transcends political and natural boundaries. Islamic Republic of Iran and neighboring countries have experienced widespread and severe droughts in the last decade. Drought is a recurring phenomenon in this region. The current cycle of drought is the worst in 30 years. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the unprecedented drought has damaged the farms and decreased water resources to be used for agriculture and drinking. One third of the country is covered with deserts which are characterized by desertification and water scarcity.

Persisting droughts highlight the need to discuss and evaluate national programmes against drought. Countries in the region must become familiar with each other's experiences in preparing for drought, assessing drought damage and mitigating its consequences. As droughts respect no geo-political boundaries, it is a humanitarian imperative to gradually pursue cross-border cooperation and mutual support on issues such as land and water management. It is also imperative to consider cooperation in national, regional and international levels within the framework of sustainable development to overcome consequences of drought.

Sustainable development is not possible without addressing vulnerability to hazards. It is a cross-cutting concern related to social, economic, environmental and humanitarian sectors. Drought is often cited as a basic cause of desertification; however, it merely accelerates or accentuates land degradation processes already under way. .Desertification affects the livelihoods of millions of people, living in dry lands and all over the world.

To address the challenges posed by drought, desertification and land degradation, it is necessary to:

- 1- Implement multi dimension policies and to give priority to research and development of technologies which make it possible to maintain agricultural production, and water and energy supply;
- 2- To promote sharing of information and indicators among countries, in particular at the regional level, as well as monitoring the occurrence and impacts of extreme weather phenomena;
- 3- To identify practical national, regional and international cooperation potentials for promoting drought mitigation investments in the various sectors.
- 4- To find out how public bodies, private households and businesses can reduce the impacts and the costs of droughts;
- 5- To promote capacity building through exchange of experiences, case studies, successes and lessons learned in major drought-prone countries.
- 6- Identify and address the gaps and barriers to the implementation of local or regional drought management plans projects, and programs should be identify.
- 7- To promote national, regional and international cooperation on drought management within the context sustainable development.
- 8- To promote cooperation among drought affected countries and regions on exploring the elements of an effective and sustainable strategy that assists countries to mitigate the current and future impacts of drought at the national and regional levels.
- 9- To assess recent trends, technology developments and policy perspectives pertaining to combating the impacts of droughts in the context of sustainable development.

- 10- To promote integration and incorporation of the drought management plans and mitigation into national and regional sustainable development strategies and plans.
- 11- To promote harmonized programmes and organized exchanges of experience and technical and scientific cooperation in the field of drought preparedness, adaptation and impacts mitigations.
- 12- To identify follow-up initiatives including the development of a regional sustainable drought management plan, and center, based on the needs, capabilities, potentials and conditions of each region.

Madam Chair, I hope that the Commission will be able to set policy options and practical measures at all levels with regard to the thematic issues of drought under consideration in a manner that will contribute significantly to combat drought-prone regions.

I thank you Madame Chair

