

# Islamic Republic of

# I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

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on

Policy Options and Practical Measures  
Water, Sanitation, and Human Settlement  
During the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
Commission on Sustainable Development  
22 April, 2005, New York

In the Name of Allah

Mr. Chairman; .

Honorable Ministers;

Distinguished delegates;

As expressed by distinguished Ministers, and representatives of the groups and organizations, we are at a critical juncture. Our experts are now working hard to set policy options and possible actions on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlement, which will affect our future living conditions. Having in our hands the Agenda 21, JPOI, MDGs and Multi-Year Program of Work for CSD, I have a couple of points to touch upon:

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- 1 The set of policy options and practical measures should address major concerns and interests of all countries in a comprehensive and fair manner. Likewise, the existence of political will, setting up appropriate and effective mechanisms for follow up, implementation of the commitments by member states, involvement of all stakeholders, particularly the civil societies and women are key to our success.

2. While addressing sustainable development, there is need for paying urgent and adequate attention to the mobilizations of recourses and transfer of appropriate technologies to assist developing countries to enhance their capacities for implementation.
3. The severe living conditions of the people, particularly the poor, in arid and semi-arid areas due to water scarcity and drought should be addressed. Provision of safe water services and waste water treatment in such areas still remain a crucial problem.
4. The role of water-related MEAs such as Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, CBD, and CCD in conservation, sustainable and wise use of natural resources should be recognized.
5. Due to allocation of 70% to 80% of fresh water to agriculture sector, water use efficiency and transfer, of its technology deserves a highly priority among our policies.
6. If we do not succeed in gradual achieving of the goals by 2015, as set, with rapid economic growth and existing trend of urbanization, we will face a catastrophe in three pillars of sustainable development. Expansion of slums, lack of adequate housing and access to sound sanitation and safe water pose constantly serious threats to human dignity, rights and health.
7. Impact assessment of Natural Disasters such as earthquake, floods, land slid and drought on water resources, sanitation and human settlement, its integration into the national and regional preparedness plans as well as the international response could lead to risk mitigation and disaster reduction. Supporting refugee host states for provision of basic services remain the responsibility of international community.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like draw the kind attention of the distinguished participants to convening an "International Conference on Environment, Peace, and Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures" scheduled to be held in Tehran, from 9 to 10, May 2005. I, herewith, invite the participants to take part in this important event. Some copies of the Press Release containing the details of the Conference are available outside the. room for your consideration.

I thank you Mr. Chairman