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**Statement by  
Mr. Taghi M. Ferami  
Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
to the United Nations  
At the Concluding Session of the Commission on the Sustainable Development**

New York, 20 September 2013

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, let me first align myself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and china.

Much has been said that It is almost twenty years since the Commission on Sustainable Development was created as the result of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At that time it was the first United Nations body for the follow up of the issues related to sustainable development. And, it was intended to be the cornerstone of the UN intergovernmental framework for sustainable development governance.

As it is raised in the Report of the Secretary General (A/67/757), it is widely believed that the Commission lived up to expectations in the early years after its establishment. It is also broadly recognized that without the Commission, sustainable development would not have been at the stage of maturity where it is today. Likewise, CSD proved instrumental in launching initiatives and

introducing new topics into the intergovernmental debates.

However, many share the point of view that the Commission lost its effectiveness during times, due to certain shortcomings, which are mainly related to, inter-alia, the Commission's impact on implementation of sustainable development; to its role in integrating three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the UN system; as well as to its decision making processes and outcomes.

**Mr. Chair,**

There is no doubt that the new high-level political forum on sustainable development, which is supposed to take the place of CSD, would build upon these lessons of the work of the CSD, including its strengths and weaknesses.

Many thought that by giving more visibility to this forum through participation of higher levels of officials in the annual and quadrennial meetings, the problem of "lack of political willingness" in following up the development goals would be resolved; however, my delegation believes that addressing the aforementioned problem should not have led us to deleting the "specific home" for following up the development goals.

Despite this fact, we strongly maintain that the forum needs to keep a strong focus on implementation at all levels, and help mainstream sustainable development in the work of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and ECOSOC.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chair**, this reconciliation should not be in any sense translated into a kind of compromise in the aspirations and goals of resolving the weaknesses inherited by the CSD. This forum should still incorporate all Rio Principles and monitor progress in promoting, facilitating and financing the capacity building programs including through access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries.

**I thank you, Mr. Chair,**