

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

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on: **“Transport”**

at the High-Level Segment of the Nineteenth Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers and Colleagues,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

At the outset, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the panelists for their contributions. I also associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Argentina on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The annual meeting of the CSD provides a unique opportunity for bringing us together, sharing our views and experiences and for encouraging the political will of countries with a view to strengthening all-out cooperation in the context of sustainable development, with a view to ensuring environmental sustainability. Sustainable development has become the common desire and the prevalent narrative on development. It is quite tangible and undeniable even for those countries that have chosen the path of rapid growth as the way to achieve development. In other words, we can say that the era of development without the pre-requisites of sustainability is long over.

In spite of several international conferences and different goals and programmes set for action, the need to find a balance between the requirements of human societies and the capacity of the environment to absorb damages continues to pose a fundamental challenge in many countries around the globe.

The 18th session of the Commission discussed important issues such as “transport, chemicals, management of hazardous and solid wastes and mining” as well as the exceptional idea of the “10-year framework plan on sustainable consumption and production patterns”, providing us with a valuable opportunity to consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and to exchange lessons learned and best practices. Now in this 19th session, we seek to make our commitments stronger to respond to the present and emerging challenges, particularly since we are fast approaching the Earth Summit of 2012.

Excellencies,

development of transport systems in both developed and developing countries has been regarded as a basic need, as it provides improved welfare, income, educational services and opportunities and other essential services. Thus, it constitutes a fundamental necessity for the elimination of poverty. However, it should be mentioned that the transport sector is one of the biggest consumers of energy and if not developed in accordance with efficient patterns and sustainable systems, the result will be detrimental to environment and public health.

Therefore, to avoid the negative impacts of the production of greenhouse gases resulted from transport sector, the implementation of policies and strategies based on improving public transport and developing efficient transport networks, especially in mega cities, is an absolute requirement. The development of sustainable energy systems, the establishment of sustainable transport services, land-use planning for sustainability and other similar approaches, can be regarded as the primary indicators of sustainable policy-making for the transport sector.

**Mr Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,**

Accordingly, the Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken important steps over the recent years towards developing sustainable national transportation networks, at both urban and rural levels. Important strategies and policies have been developed within the Fifth Development Plan and for putting in place a sound transport sector by 2015. I would like to share with you the headings of these policies:

- Establishing safe, free-flowing, prudent and environment-friendly transport networks;
- Availability of appropriate rural road networks for all villages;
- Promoting intelligent traffic management and incorporating the environmental impact assessment in the road and rail transport infrastructure projects;
- Increasing the use of clean alternative fuels (such as CNG and hybrid), especially in public transport sector;
- Scrapping old, high-consuming, polluting or unsafe vehicles;
- Using new technologies to increase safety and low fuel consumption of all locally manufactured and imported vehicles;
- Developing rail transport networks, especially in mega cities;
- Development of efficient human resources as required for different sub-sectors of public transport; and,
- Phasing out fuel subsidies from private cars and shifting them to public transportation.

These measures are part of the policies adopted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to demonstrate its commitment to reach sustainable development objectives concerning transport sector and climate change.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

I should recall that the improvement in sustainable development at the global and national levels requires a holistic approach that ensures and maintains the balance between the economic growth and the sustainability of environment. Definitely, we do not face shortages in *concepts*. Concrete *actions* to reach the mentioned balance are what we mostly need. I hope that the outcome of this session moves us all ahead towards the common goal of sustainable development.

Undoubtedly, our people are carefully observing the achievements we have made so far and the agenda for action we put forward for our heads of States in 2012. Let's keep them upbeat.

I thank you all for your attention and consideration.