

Statement by:

H.E Dr. M.Shafie-Pour  
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The Islamic Republic of Iran  
On “ Transportation”  
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**In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful**

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I express my appreciation to the panelists for their comments. I also associate myself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of G-77 and China.

**Transport** is a major vehicle for economic growth of countries, have direct impact on socio-economic and environmental livelihood of countries. Sufficient infrastructures as well as efficient, clean and affordable transport services have positive impacts on poverty alleviation, expansion of trade, creation of jobs and communication. Rural transport infrastructure is an absolute necessity to bring agricultural products to consumption markets which in turn, contributes to long term sustainable development in rural area in developing countries. The Iranian Plateau with its mountainous landscape has always been a natural obstacle to easy ways of communication. Nevertheless from ancient times up to the

present, important trading routes have been finding their way through the region: among them the famous Silk Road. In this connection, Islamic Republic of Iran in the past three decades has invested gigantic amounts on road and railroad construction projects and connected remote areas to major cities. Through these roads, some of the land-locked neighboring countries are also connected to main ports. Numerous bridges and tunnels have been constructed to surmount the natural obstacles. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been active in expanding and diversify its transport routes not only at the national and regional levels but even beyond regional level. The country's railway links to most of its neighboring countries and will soon close the remaining gap between European and Indian subcontinent rail network. With the opening of the Silk Road railway to Turkmenistan, merchandises from Central Asia find a convenient way to the sea crossing Iran by rail.

We are aware of impacts of using fossil fuels in transportation on climate change. In line of reduction of emission, Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has developed BRT system and has alternated CNG to gasoline in mostly public transport in Metropolitan cities. After 3 years from the start, it currently enjoys some 1.5 millions of CNG Vehicles nation-wide. Also, a joint scrapping program, co-sponsored by the government and the local auto manufacture, resulted in scrapping approximately one million old cars and light pickups thus improving air quality, reducing energy consumption and promoting safety. Implementation of such program in most developing countries is a must. Iran one of the most important transit developing countries with particular geographical position is hosting very important multimodal transportation routes that development and maintenance of them created great challenges. If these concerns and challenges are not addressed these will

hamper the cooperation among transit developing countries. Moreover development and maintenance of infrastructure require greater share of investment, financial assistance from donors, international financial institutions and development assistance agencies. To further encourage integrated cross-border infrastructure investment, Islamic Republic of Iran and ESCAP have jointly set up two workshops recently focusing to facilitate rail and road transit transport. My country is also on the verge of accession to the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) which aims at promoting and facilitating transit transport. These efforts by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have addressed sustainable development goals in Agenda 21 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on transport.

Mr.C0- Chair

I thank you.