

**Statement by Mr. Chitchian, Deputy Minister of Energy
Islamic Republic of Iran**

**CSD-14 session: Ministerial dialogue with heads of UN agencies, funds and programmes,
including international financial institutions on the topic “Making a Difference”**

Thanks to the Heads of UN agencies, Funds and Programs, GEF, OPEC and the others for their observations.

Mr. Chairman;

I would like to make two points concerning the comments and observations in the meeting:

1. Financing the projects and activities related to sustainable development, as many distinguished delegates and representatives pointed out, remains a barrier to our efforts. While we were concerned about the low level of voluntary contributions to GEF in the past, new challenges the facility is facing on the threshold of replenishment⁴, has given rise to the frustrations and concerns about the future of this biggest financial mechanism to support sustainable development efforts of the developing countries.
2. It is not wise to categorize energy resources to bad and good or black and white and address them on that basis. We need all sources of energies including fossil fuels, hydro, biomass, geothermal, etc. Whether we accept or not, we will rely on fossil fuel in the years ahead. At the same time we need to work on the new and renewable sources of energies and make them cost-effective, reliable, affordable and accessible and less harmful to the environment. In these circumstances, we need to work collectively to find solutions and policies in order to tackle the problem of harms that sources of energy may impose on the environment and human health. We need to facilitate diversification of energy resources in favor of the environmental protection, economic development, and social development. We need cooperation at regional and international levels to address appropriately questions of advanced technologies, energy efficiency, and developing new sources of energy bearing in mind the principles of reliability, affordability, and accessibility of all people particularly vulnerable groups and the poor.

I thank you