

**Statement by
Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour
Representative of the I.R. of Iran
before the
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting
on "Air Pollution/Atmosphere"
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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman;
Distinguished participants;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

I thank the panelists for their useful presentations and before making my remarks on air pollution/atmosphere, I would like to associate myself with the statement made by distinguished representative of Pakistan, in his capacity as the chairman of Group of 77 and China, on the theme under consideration.

Mr. Chairman

Air pollution/atmosphere continues to pose threat to human health, particularly in urban areas, and to the environment. Formulation of certain policy options and possible actions during CSD-15 coupled with the support of the international community could help the nations overcome air pollution, as one of the major challenges, which many people throughout the world are facing. Air pollution/atmosphere is mostly the consequence of world-wide industrial development, transportation and production and use of energy and, therefore, industrialized nations have to shoulder the main responsibility to tackle this problem. Therefore, formulation of appropriate and clear policies which capture all aspects of energy and industrial development, taking into account the special needs of developing countries, can lead us to a better result in reducing air pollution/atmosphere.

Mr. Chairman;

Access to and availability of cleaner sources of energy remain crucial in reducing the pollution. In addition, setting policies to promote energy efficiency and their implementation as well as transfer of related advanced technologies, will decrease significantly air pollution/atmosphere. Transfer of advanced technologies and international assistance are also needed to control gas flaring and venting, as a source of air pollution/atmosphere in oil producing countries. Turning from solid fuels like biomass and coal to cleaner fuels such as liquid petroleum, gas, biogas or electricity in all sectors are among the other solutions which reduce exposure of people to air pollution and protect further the environment.

Indoor pollution is still imposing hard living conditions to many poor people world wide, particularly in remote areas. Prevention of smoking in closed areas, utilization of cleaner fuels, the use of improved cook stoves as well as air conditioner are among the options which will reduce indoor pollutions.

As per outdoor pollutions, there is a need for plans to reduce the emissions arising from transportation systems, industry, and residential areas by using cleaner fuels, advanced technologies, promotion of mass transit systems including bus rapid transit systems and underground and surface rail system. One can not disregard the adverse impacts of deforestation, land degradation, and desertification in increasing the level of air pollution/atmosphere.

Mr. Chairman;

Being from a country with large desert areas, I can not fail to express my concern over the most problematic air pollution which people living in desert are facing. Increased sand storms and thus flying sands, in the cities, towns and villages located in desert areas, dismantle frequently the daily life the people and hamper developmental activities. Transfer of technology and know-how, establishment and use of ground-based monitoring networks, satellite monitoring systems data, as well as setting up early warning systems are crucial to identify hot spots in order to tackle the problem.

Last but not least, providing developing countries with means of implementation is required to prevent, control and remove air pollution/atmosphere. There is no doubt that regional and international cooperation will help, not only the national governments involved but also the international community, overcome this problem.

I thank you Mr. Chairman;