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*Embassy Of The Islamic Republic Of Iran  
In The Name Of Allah, The Almighty*

**Statement  
by  
H.E. Mr. Hossein KAMALIAN  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to ESCAP  
at the  
Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development  
May 19, 2014**

**In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful,  
Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset I would like to congratulate you and other members of the bureau. I am confident that under your leadership this forum will conclude with fruitful outcome. I would also like to express our appreciation to the ESCAP secretariat for the documentation and excellent arrangements for this forum.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. As the parameters and major issues are emerging on new Sustainable Development Goals as well as Development Agenda beyond 2015, we believe that the priorities of our region should be reflected in the prospective actions and goals of these processes. The distinguished delegates have already addressed a number of important issues that my delegation share many of them, and I would like to embark on some other aspects of sustainable development that we believe are critical for Asia and the Pacific. Poverty eradication continues to be the main priority in our region and still almost 1.7 billion people are living in absolute poverty or at the edge of poverty in our continent. These people are living without access to sanitation and rely on biomass as the main source of their primary source of energy.

Some of the key elements related to various aspects of poverty eradication such as reducing the proportion of people living below national poverty lines, ensuring universal access to sustainable modern energy services, provision of universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, especially for women and girls, sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the income distribution of each country, ensuring equality of economic opportunity including secure rights to own land, property and other productive assets and access to financial services, universal access to education, health care and basic services, and gender equality and empowerment of women, are considered or addressed among the possible sustainable development goals by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

There are other important issues that we believe need further consideration by the working group as prospective Sustainable development goals. These issues include achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all who seek employment, and building resilience to disasters. Furthermore, we believe that the strong and stable global economic and financial architecture with full and meaningful participation of all countries should be considered as an important global public good that could ensure economic and social development and should be an overarching component of the framework for any set of goals and objectives for future development agenda and sustainable development. Moreover, allow me to emphasize that some other priority areas of SDGs for my delegation are universality, differentiation and common but differentiated responsibilities, means of implementation, global partnership for development, sustainable consumption and production patterns, Climate change, sustained economic growth, and sustainable use and management of natural ecosystems.

Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to raise a few points on "means of implementation" in our working process in defining the SDGs:

While the SDGs framework is universally relevant to all countries, I do believe that the roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the goals should be differentiated with respect to the different national realities, capacities and levels of development, as well as to national policies and priorities. Therefore, the roadmap for the implementation of each target, which is part and parcel of every mechanism related to means of implementation, should be based upon the unique circumstances and conditions of each country, and tailored in a way that is aligned with its national economic strategies and priorities. The Rio Principle (1992)

on common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) should also guide the translation of each SDG goal into targets.

In planning the SDGs, setting the bars high or low should be commensurate with the means of implementation set for each and every one of them. Existing lessons from various reports on the implementation of the MDGs clearly shows that the global partnership and means of implementation should not be seen in isolation. We don't have the luxury of creating another process after the SDGs either, as we are working now for post MDGs process. Therefore, it is upon us to work on a set of goals and targets, which their implementation is fully determined by unflawed means and commitments.

The balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, by itself, should mean that there should be a harmonized approach to both hardware and software. Hence, we are all cognizant of the fact that if there is no economic development, the only thing to be equally distributed would be "deteriorated poverty", and there would be no social development either. Therefore, my delegation stress that the means of implementation should be equitably devoted to all three dimensions of sustainable development.

Means of implementation for each and every target should be quantifiable. Assessment and verification of the achievements is only guaranteed when there is a quantifiable system of allocation and a clear mechanism for the assessment of its implementation, and "means of implementation for each SDGs" should be accompanied by "means of sustainability of its achievements";

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

