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Mr. Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson for giving me the floor.

First of all, I would like to thank the secretariat for its valuable efforts dedicated to transport sector, especially during last ten years; which resulted in signing AH and TAR network agreements. Furthermore, for preparing the draft of dry port agreement to be signed in near future, that will make the Asia and the Pacific region closer to an integrated intermodal transportation and especially help the landlocked countries to enjoy smooth transportation.

Therefore, on behalf of my delegation it is my pleasure to support the adoption of the draft resolution on dry ports agreement in this session of the commission.

Mr. Chairperson

Participation in Euro-Asian Transport Links project (EATL), is a valuable issue undertaken by the secretariat that extends the AH and TAR networks to TEM and TER, the European highway and railway networks. Islamic Republic of Iran delegation would like to put forward two suggestions to be considered by the secretariat in this regard;

- 1- Supporting the formulation of EATL under phase II of the regional Action Programme for Transport development in Asia and the Pacific till 2016.
- 2- Retrieving its effort done about 6 years ago to connect the Asian transport networks to the transportation networks of the ESCWA (Economic and Social Commission for West Asia), called Arab-Mashreq. As you are aware, preliminary study was undertaken in collaboration of ESCAP and ESCWA in 2007 and related Geographic Information System was launched in the same time. Development of ESCAP - ESCWA Links not only will facilitate land transport and trade of ESCAP countries to ESCWA region but opens the way to Africa, the land of opportunities in future.

Mr. Chairperson

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank the secretariat for its cooperation and technical support during the third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on PPP for infrastructure development which financed by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and held in Tehran on Nov. 2012.

The secretariat is expected to continue such efforts to make PPP more popular and effective in the region by determining the next host.

Thank you.