Islamic Republic of
IRAN
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations
Under Agenda Item 19 (a to j), entitled "Sustainable Development"
Second Committee of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly

(Monday, 04 November 2013)

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,
Thank you for giving me the floor.

At the beginning, I would like to associate myself with the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; furthermore, allow me to add a few points in my own national capacity.

This session of the General Assembly is indeed critical, as it is setting the stage for a new global development agenda beyond 2015.

The follow-up processes to the Rio+20 Summit are now underway, and they should complete their work in a comprehensive, balanced and expeditious manner by September 2014. As agreed in the final outcome of the MDGs' Special Event, inputs from these processes will contribute to the inter-governmental negotiations, due to begin in September 2014, which will culminate in a Summit at the Heads of State and Government level in September 2015.

My delegation believes that it has taken a lot of time and energy from all of us to come to this point today, and there is no doubt that we need an integrated approach, because we have learnt that the environmental, economic and social aspects of the global development agenda cannot be considered and implemented in-silo.

We must ensure that the post 2015 development agenda truly leads to prosperity for one and all. In this regard, we fully support the reaffirmation of the outcome document of the Special Event on MDGs, that poverty eradication remains the greatest global challenge today.
The outcome document also reaffirms the fundamental principles in particular the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, which would guide the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

Welcoming the establishment of the HLPF as a very crucial entity in this regard, my delegation believes that to make it a success, it needs to address the significant gaps and shortcomings of the MDGs in terms of coordination, cohesion, and implementation in all fields of sustainable development, and should have a stronger platform with increased political visibility.

Mr. Chairman,

Desertification, land degradation, drought, dust and sand storm also represent a serious concern for developing countries. This issue is of great concern to my country as well, and the international cooperation is urgently required to address these challenges.

Iran’s diversity in climatic conditions and its assortment of marine and terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems are rooted in its unique geography. However, pressure has been put on environmental resources and biodiversity due to persistent droughts, heavy stress on and pollution of scarce water resources, air pollution in urban and industrial areas, as well as degradation of rangelands, wild life and soil erosion.

The potential impacts include: loss of arable land; depletion of groundwater, which is the main source of water for irrigation in the farming sector; desertification and deforestation; impacts on health and livelihoods, in particular, of the rural and urban poor.

Given its location in one of the most seismically active regions of the world, Iran is the sixth most disaster-prone country in the world. Although, Iran has developed an internationally recognized and effective disaster preparedness and response capacity at the national and local levels, disaster prevention and risk reduction are areas that will continue to require longer-term and extensive national and international efforts and cooperation.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly adheres to its active involvement in all the processes established as a result of the Rio+20 Summit on sustainable development, and strongly hopes that the intergovernmental process envisaged in the final declaration of the Special Event for the integration of all the inputs, culminating in a Post-2015 Development Agenda, would be tailored in a way that benefits all the Members of the United Nations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman,