

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

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on: **“Waste Management and Chemicals”**

at the High-Level Segment of the Nineteenth Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers and Colleagues,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It gives me great pleasure to address the High-level Meeting of the 19th session of the Commission for Sustainable Development. At the outset, I associate myself with the statement made by the representative of Argentina on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Increasing environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources, on the one hand, and the growing demands of societies for economic growth, on the other, have made “sustainability” as the sole available approach for reaching environmentally compatible development, which also addresses several interlinked crises that humanity is facing with in the 21st century. Ensuring environmental sustainability would require natural resources to remain undamaged, which means that whilst wise-use principles remain in place, natural resources and reserves should not be irreplaceably destroyed.

Apparently, how to put together economic growth with the environment protection and move towards more efficient systems remains an important challenge which, for years has been the subject of discussion among scientists and experts. The increasing trend in terms of the consumption of substances harmful to nature, including chemicals and hazardous substances and production of wastes, represent serious concerns with regard to effective management of consumption of such substances and the risk over their excessive use beyond the limits tolerable for humans and the environment.

The lack or insufficient access to transparent scientific data on risk assessment for chemicals, rapid increase in both the consumption and the number of new chemicals as well as the lack of the necessary capacity to ensure efficient environmental management over these substances, pose the most serious challenges in this sector. Even the synergy of the three relevant Conventions has yet to be fully tapped to address them. Therefore, prioritizing these challenges,

at national and international levels and committing to the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions as well as to the Montreal Protocol, have been seriously on the agenda of many countries over the recent years.

Mr Chairman,

Dear Participants,

The Islamic Republic of Iran while continues to cooperate in implementing its international commitments, has adopted important policies in its Fifth Development Plan to achieve even more efficient and effective and stronger environmental wastes and chemicals management. All of these policies and plans will be made operational over the next five years.

To this end, we are planning to establish a "National Registration Network" for the pollution emissions and transport of chemicals in order to primarily develop a data and information system, to raise public awareness on the chemical hazards and finally to encourage the use of appropriate substitutes. Also, to demonstrate our commitment, the production process, use, trade, import and export of hazardous substances such as mercury and related compounds, lead and cadmium have been put under strictest supervisions by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Other policies to be followed during the country's Fifth Development Plan include establishment of an operational mechanism for the evaluation of damage inflicted on the environment as a result of chemical accidents, settlement of compensation, the cost of clean-up and developing a National Action Plan on heavy metals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Although due to time limits, it is not possible to mention all our relevant policies and actions, it is necessary to recall that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the area of wastes management and chemicals is seriously committed to work, in accordance with Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, to prepare plans for risk reduction, increased technological capacity for effective management and prevention of illegal transportation and trade in poisonous and hazardous substances. After all, wastes minimization leading to zero waste has to be placed at the very core of the international policy agenda.

In conclusion, I thank you all for your attention and patience.