

Statement by:
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“On Consumption and production patterns”
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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madam. Co-Chair,

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I would like to thank the panelists for their contributions. I associate myself with the statement made by the representative of Singapore on behalf of G-77 and China.

Sustainable Consumption and production patterns are influenced by social values, technological developments and urbanization. As creatures of habits, human being tends to resist changes that may instantly not look for the better.

Sustainable development involves change, indeed a wave of change in the behavior of producers and consumers in the allocation of resources among users that must take place over time. This meeting provides a new opportunity for countries to take the lead in making their patterns of consumption and production more sustainable, and based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the high- income countries pay principle, to actively address the concerns of developing nations in their efforts to achieve sustainable development goals. Can we talk about economic trends without considering the unjust, unequal and

unsustainable consumption patterns in some of developed countries? Over consumption of commodities and food in the industrialized world is considered being important contributor to the deterioration of the environment and enhances inequalities and social conflict. The 20 per cent of the population in the highest-income countries accounted for 77 per cent of total private consumption in 2005, while the poorest 20 accounted for only 1.3 per cent. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is about reducing our environmental impacts, while maintaining or improving economic outputs and standards of living. Subsidies are also key players on development of sustainable production and consumption patterns. Currently most of subsidies in the world are working against sustainability and SCP patterns , working against poverty alleviation and working against MDGs. Going back to eleventh session of CSD discussions on SCP, remind us the goals and commitments connected to changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. As the Islamic Republic of Iran's economy mostly relies on energy sector, which provides the majority of government revenues, my Government has decided to implement consumption and production patterns for energy through phasing out the subsidies on energy.

Poverty eradication and changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are comprehensive objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development. To implement the MDG on poverty eradication, the Government of the I.R.Iran has decided to allocate major amount of revenues from subsidy cuts to poor and less advanced areas of the country. Such an action would also make a major contribution to create jobs in poor regions. These policies are in line with the goals of Agenda 21 on changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Although efforts are focused to de-couple economic

growth from environment degradation and exhausting natural resources, that I am not sure how successful we have been practice, at the same time efforts should be focused to couple innovative financial mechanisms and practical encouraging models with production and consumption patterns to ensure sustainability.

Most people like to be rich and I think being a bank share holder may be attractive to most. Can we establish a “Best Practices Bank” for SCP patterns so that most countries if not all, could become this banks share holder?

I thank you.