

**Statement by Mr. Hadi Farajvand
Ambassador and Permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
at the First Substantive session of the ADHOC-WG
on Global Pact for the Environment
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
**In the name of God
The compassionate, the merciful**

I would like to thank, the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on the gaps, in international environmental law, and environment-related instrument. The report contains, substantive elements, on international and regional environmental agreements, on impact of Environmental transboundary challenges, and on the situation of conservation of natural globally.

What we note in the first instance, looking into the report, is that, multilateral environmental agreements, comprising more than 500 instruments, have done a lot in protecting the environment, and have a great impact, in conservation of the planet.

Cooperation and coordination among the countries, has become easier and more frequent, exchange of knowledge, and promotion of best practices and lessons learnt, has been carried out, and has put its mark, in the Global process of protection of environment, in a vast full of knowledge, and experience, has been created.

At the same time, it is fair to say that, multilateral environmental agreements, have not been entirely successful, in fulfilling their mandates, to protect the global environment. Fragmentation of the MEG's, implementation gap and inconsistency, insufficient resources, unsound environmental policies, inadequate and in some areas, inappropriate provisions of international instruments, and even to some extent, politically motivated positions and decisions, are among the main factors, of the environmental deficits, we face today.

First of all, we need to diagnose, before surgery. The activities of the countries, and their record in conservation of the planet, and in protection

of the environment, depends on numerous issues including, the development level and development plans, the size of the economy, geography, the climate in its implication on the territory, political situation, among many other factors.

Secondly, implementation of international environmental agreements, and the gradation of the nature, are going in opposite directions, and this degradation is not fully man-made, and can never, be stopped.

Climate change, drought, desertification, and the pressure of the population on natural resources, are among the natural phenomena, against which our options are limited, and sometimes restricted to adaptation and mitigation.

Thirdly, we are all sitting in the same boat, and a blame Game, does not help us in dealing with the challenges we are facing. However, the fact is that, those who have had a greater share in polluting the planet, have not borne a greater responsibility in remedying it. Polluters have not paid!! We believe, that golden rule of common, but differentiated responsibility, has remains an empty slogan, rather than an operational approach.

Fourthly, right to clean and healthy environment, is a basic human rights and must be observed by all. However, putting the environment into a legally binding framework, in our view, does not help in any way, to promote its protection.

The experience of Human Rights instruments, is before our eyes. Politics, is at the centre of those instruments. International treaties, intelligibly, have not defined, the threshold below, which a breach of Human Rights occurs, since legalizing and criminalizing environmental issues, takes us back into the first Square, where the already squeezed resources will be exhausted, on non-environmental issues.

fifth, international governance, its institutional fragmentation, and heterogeneous set of actors, can be dealt with through a realistic and meaningful collective approach, by all member states of the United Nations, to appreciate the achievements, and to fill the gaps, to learn from the experiences, to share best practices, to exchange knowledge and to transfer technology, to strengthen national capacities, to raise awareness at

all levels, to respect sovereignty of Nations, to assist promote coordination among member states, to avoid finger pointing, and, to advance the sustainable Development Goals.

Resorting to creation of a new comprehensive, and unifying international instruments, without recognizing the root causes of the gaps, will be waste of time and Resources, of international environmental vehicle.

We are of the view that, we do need creativity, in reviving the current instruments, to Energize them, to get more deeply involved to their mandate. We do not have deficit in mandate, we do have deficit, in implementation.

We all remember transforming of the commission on human rights, to human rights Council. Advocates of that transformation argued that, to promote human rights, we need to fill the gaps, to strengthen the legal framework, to harmonize the Treaty bodies, to clarify the principles and the like.

Today, more than ever, it is clear that, those objectives could have been achieved, with keeping the commission and the council, has not contributed to more interaction and dialogue, in the area of Human Rights.

Therefore, we believe that, reforms in international environmental instruments, don't need to criminalize the environmental issues, nor they need to be mandated and charged, similar to the human rights instruments.

I thank you Mr. co-chair