

In the Name of Allah the most companionate the most Merciful

Madam President

Madam Executive Director of UNEP

Your Excellencies Ministers and Ambassadors

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset I would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Kenya for hosting this auspicious meeting. The Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly is an opportunity for countries to make realistic, fair and inclusive decisions to tackle the common global and regional environmental crises and challenges.

I also wish to avail this opportunity and point to the common responsibility of all of us in objecting against the genocide and the brutal mass killing of women and children, elders and the innocent people of Gaza, and the need for comprehensive support to the Palestinian people as well as condemnation of the war crimes of the Occupying Zionist regime of Israel. We also emphasize on adopting necessary measures by all countries to stop the war crimes, to bring the criminals of this regime to justice and to strive for redressing the damages to the environment of Gaza.

Excellencies,

Today, neglecting the conservation of environment and to cope with climate change have created serious and emerging challenges for all countries of the world. Consequences such as imbalance of the nature, loss of biodiversity, various threats to food security and human health, together with expansion of poverty, are among these challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The lack of the necessary means such as financial resources, transfer of technology and capacity building for implementation of critical measures in order to achieve social and economic development, and an equitable just transition to a future which ensures resilience and environment protection is the greatest challenge of developing nations. However, in such an effort, there is no single

pathway which fits all. On the other hand, we should not forget that enforcing unjust, imbalanced unilateral coercive measures in international trade against developing nations under the pretext of environmental protection will result in nothing than severe problems and challenges for these countries.

It should be noted that in achieving a just transition to an environmentally sound future and resilience, one size fits all, cannot be applied. National capacities, circumstances and priorities are different. Therefore, the pathway of each country is unique, and there is no single prescription which fits all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic Republic of Iran as a responsible country always emphasizes on the importance of environmental protection, and it has mainstreamed this as a very substantial imperative in making all of its national policies, strategies and action plans so that the development of the country to be achieved through a balanced pathway. However, the Unilateral Coercive Measures and unjust and illegitimate sanctions and disguised restrictions against Iran, have severely impacted the environment protection and achieving a balanced development of the Country. In this respect we could refer including among others to discontinuing of foreign financial assistances to Iran's environmental projects in particular the Sistan project, non allocation and provision of resources to such projects by the programs and the funds affiliated to the United Nations system, in particular the Global Environment Fund (Fund), critical barriers to technology transfer and non cooperation of other international entities who have been mandated to provide financial and technical assistances to developing nations.

Among other challenges of the Islamic republic of Iran, is the lack of attention to the pollution and mismanagement of water resources in the upstream neighboring countries of and non cooperation in complying with their bilateral obligations including meeting environmental water requirements which have significantly impacted the ecosystem, including habitats and the life of various animal and plant species together with exacerbation of sand and storms and other weather events in my country. Therefore, it is expected that the international bodies in particular UNEP in line with their mandates, to effectively play their role in areas of financial, technical, and advisory assistances to developing countries.

Excellencies,

Iran the same as many other countries have been severely affected by adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollutions which significant parts of their causes originates from other countries and regions. Drought, water scarcity and severe sand and dust storms are among the major challenges which our region is facing with. The International Conference of Combating Sand and Dust Storms which was held with cooperation of the United Nations in Tehran, in September 2023 in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 77/171 is part of the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to draw attention of world community and the importance of the need to finding common solutions for fighting against these challenges.

In this respect, the Islamic Republic of Iran through tabling a draft resolution with this session of UNEA has tried to take another major step to push for a collective action and setting up appropriate regional and international mechanisms and arrangements in order to combat sand and dust storms. We hope that through adoption and implementation of this resolution, the world community shows its determination for management and combating sand and dust storms and adaptation to their adverse impacts and to consider establishment of necessary means to that end.

At the end, I would like to point out that, the future of our environment inevitably determines the common fate of all of us. We are of the hope that regardless of political agendas, through cooperating and utilizing each other's capacities, and with taking advantage of common knowledge, technology and financial resources, we would be able to present a healthy and clean future to our children.

Thank for your attention.