

In The Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Comments and Proposals by the Delegation of the I.R. Iran

On the Ministerial Declaration of the UNEA-7

1. Taking into account that the years 2025-2034 has been named the decade of Sand and Dust Storms by the United Nations, and taking note of climate change, social, economic, environmental and health consequences of these storms, we suggest that SDS to be considered one of the main topics of the UNEA-7 Ministerial Declaration, and in this regard to request for establishing funds for supporting countries in combating SDSs.
2. The Ministerial Declaration should emphasize on the importance of international cooperation in particular on technology transfer and financing to the developing countries especially for the countries under illegal and illegitimate sanctions.
3. The Ministerial Declaration should request that the results of the latest scientific reports to be oriented towards protection of biodiversity for the benefit of the people and the local communities who are affected by the climate change.
4. The Declaration should stress on the need to full implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
5. Provision of financial and technological assistance to developing countries, capacity building and awareness raising on environmental challenges and issues, fulfilment of environmental commitments of developed countries as well as facilitation of non-discriminatory access to global facilities and technologies for all should be highlighted in the Ministerial Declaration as the main collective action in progressing effective and comprehensive global environmental governance.
6. The Ministerial Declaration also should emphasize on the followings:
 - The duties of the WTO in regards to the Environment,
 - Multilateralism in environmental protection and preservation activities,
 - The roles and responsibilities of Multilateral Companies in protecting and preserving the environment,
 - Combatting organized crimes in respecting the environment such as illegal trade and wild species trafficking.

- Implementation of national environmental policies and programs consistent with national circumstances and capabilities.
 - Principles of CBDR, national sovereignty on resources, non-interference in internal affairs, country ownership, ...
 - Striking balance in adaptation and emission reduction in climate change actions,
 - Necessity of increasing technical and financial support to developing countries through public resources in a sufficient, predictable and reliable manner,
7. The Ministerial Declaration also should stress on the:
 - Prevent any linkages between environment issues with International peace and security and human rights
 - Avoid using "vulnerable peoples" and "marginalized groups",
 - Avoid over focusing on human rights issues
 - Not to restrict the production and economic capacities of developing countries under the pretext of observing environmental standards,
 8. The Ministerial Declaration should express its concern on discriminatory access or inaccessibility of international environmental funds such as GEF to developing countries and their conditionality with human rights issues or political considerations.
 9. The Ministerial Declaration should not determine any direction or decision on the ongoing negotiation processes including Intergovernmental Plastic Pollution Negotiations (INC)
 10. We suggest that the Ministerial Declaration in reference to the outcomes of International Conference on Combating Desertification, request for establishment of an independent mechanism on drought and a special fund for combating desertification.