

Statement by:
Mr. Ahmad rajabi
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
“On Transportation”
During
Eighteenth Session of
the Commission on Sustainable Development
United Nations Headquarters, New York
3-14 May, 2010

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

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

Transport is a major vehicle for economic growth of countries, driving among other MDGs, their poverty alleviation agendas. Transport and mobility have direct impact on socio-economic and environmental livelihood of countries. Sufficient infrastructures as well as efficient, clean and affordable transport services have positive impacts on poverty alleviation, expansion of trade, creation of jobs and communication. Rural transport infrastructure is an absolute necessity to bring agricultural products to consumption markets which in turn, contributes to long term sustainable development in rural area in developing countries. The Iranian Plateau with its mountainous landscape has always been a natural obstacle to easy ways of communication. Nevertheless from ancient times up to the present, important trading routes have been finding their way through the region: among them the famous Silk Road. In this connection, Islamic Republic of Iran in the past three decades has invested gigantic amounts on road and railroad construction projects and connected remote areas to major cities. Through these roads, some of the land-locked neighboring countries are also connected to main ports.

Numerous bridges and tunnels have been constructed to surmount the natural obstacles. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been active in expanding and diversify its transport routes not only at the national and regional levels but even beyond regional level. The country's railway links to most of its neighboring countries and will soon close the remaining gap between European and Indian subcontinent rail network. With the opening of the Silk Road railway to Turkmenistan, merchandises from Central Asia find a convenient way to the sea crossing Iran by rail.

Mr. Chairman

Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the most important transit developing countries with particular geographical position is hosting very important multimodal transportation routes that development and maintenance of them created great challenges .If these concerns and challenges are not addressed they will hamper the cooperation among transit developing countries. Moreover development and maintenance of infrastructure require greater share of investment, financial assistance from donors, international financial institutions and development assistance agencies. To further encourage integrated cross-border infrastructure investment, Islamic Republic of Iran and ESCAP have jointly set up two workshops recently focusing to facilitate rail and road transit transport. My country is also on the verge of accession to the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) which aims at promoting and facilitating transit transport. These efforts by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have addressed sustainable development goals in Agenda 21 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on transport.

I thank you

