

Statement by

The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

At the 7th session of the OWG on Sustainable Development Goals

**Under the Item entitled “Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements,
Sustainable Transport”**

Tuesday, 7 January 2014

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Co-Chair,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor,

Let me first appreciate you, the keynote speakers and panelists of yesterday’s meeting and the UN Task Team for your efforts.

I would like to associate itself with the statement made by Fiji, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and to add, in a very short intervention, three points in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

In the presentations made yesterday and even in the papers provided by the UN Task Team, there is a combination of meanings and – a sort of complex- usages of the word “urbanization”; on the one hand it is used as a combination of parameters and factors to achieve sustainable development, such as infrastructure, accessibility, health, education, employment, etc.; on the other hand, it is sometimes used as a geographical space contrary/ or as with regard to, the rural areas.

My delegation believes that, as it was also raised in yesterday's discussion, we should focus our efforts in this process to address the issue of "sustainable development of human settlements", and go beyond concurring or rejecting urban areas and/or rural areas.

It is also widely believed that "urbanization" or "achieving sustainable cities" is the long-sought process, which includes a specific cluster of targets that makes a living place different and aligns it with sustainable development scheme.

Mr. Co-Chair, since most of these targets are somehow cross-sectoral, such as reduction of slums, enhancing the health system, employment, reduction of gas emissions, and so forth, my delegation maintains that one way to address this overlapping and reiteration would be to highlight core targets that are not addressed in other SDG proposals. These targets might include, among others, planning and design, resilience, common space rules and regulations, etc.

Likewise, Mr. Co-Chair, as for the final point, I would like to say that since many of the very important issues raised under the agenda of "sustainable transport", are also important targets under other goals on, for instance, energy, pollution, employment, accessibility, infrastructure, etc., my delegation believes that we might focus on the specificity of this issue and think of some certain target or targets like "road safety" and "accessibility to transport system" under other goals such as "infrastructure" or "accessibility".

I thank you Mr. Co-Chair,