

Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**Statement by
Mr. Mehdi Mirafzal, Representative of
the Islamic Republic of Iran
at the informal thematic consultations of the General Assembly
on the Report of the Secretary-General, "In Larger Freedom- Towards Development,
Security and Human Rights for All"
CLUSTER I issues (freedom from want)**

New York, April 26, 2005

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Facilitator,

I would like to begin by extending our sincere thanks to you and other Facilitator for having convened this meeting.

Stressing on the validity of my delegation's positions expressed on the Report of the Secretary General in previous meetings of the General Assembly, and also endorsing the statement delivered on behalf of G-77 and china by Jamaica, I wish to take this opportunity to further elaborate on certain issues enlisted under cluster I.

The report of the Secretary General under the chapter entitled "freedom from want" contains important recommendations that are intended to boost the efforts of the international community to meet the target of 2015 for the achievement of many MDGs. However, these recommendations may not all attain this end, since some require further elaboration and others seem to be selective and not inclusive enough to address the concerns of developing countries. This is especially the case with those related to macro-economic policy issues and sustainable development. Moreover, the report is surprisingly silent on a number of very important issues.

Yearning for a just and non-discriminatory international economic and social order, the world today confronts acute economic and social problems, many of them structural in nature. International economic relations also continue to be marked by uncertainty and imbalances with marginalization of developing countries. Many decisions that affect world economy are still taken outside the multilateral framework of the UN system disregarding the interests of developing countries.

A noticeable percentage of the world's population is subject to unilateral coercive economic measures or "sanctions" by one country alone. Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries, has received greater focus by the United Nations in recent years, particularly by its human rights arm.

The General Assembly has expressed grave concern over the use of unilateral coercive

economic measures, which indeed, affects adversely the economy and development efforts of developing countries as well as the international economic cooperation and efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory trading system worldwide.

Since the report of the Secretary General lacks any reference to this important issue, the agenda of the September Summit should be designed to seal the elimination of the use of extra-territorial and unilateral coercive measures against developing countries. It should also reaffirm the universally recognized principle that, no state should use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measure to coerce other states.

Additionally, a conducive international economic environment is the situation where beneficial integration of developing countries into the world economy and a multilateral trading system is ensured. Such a system needs to be truly universal, open, equitable, rule-based, and non-discriminatory. Accession of developing countries to the WTO without political impediments and in a transparent manner will be a major step towards this objective. The Summit by addressing this issue will help redress, to certain extent, the imbalances and remove hurdles in the current multilateral trading system. Membership of the WTO should not be contingent upon fulfillment of certain political motives.

Mr. Facilitator

On financing of development, the report of the Secretary General entails a number of positive elements. Both the establishment of International Financial Facility and the Secretary General's proposal to set time-table for the developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 of their national gross income for ODA seem to be encouraging. However, what is needed in this field is the renewed political commitment of developed countries to implement their obligations without preconditions and conditionalities. We have to recognize that the provision of external financial resources in the form of ODA is mainly related to the political will of developed countries rather than lack of institutions. In other words, the question is how much resources will be generated over and above what is available and that, whether new initiatives would bring about new and additional resources beyond what is committed.

Another pertinent question is whether the UN development system and its operational activities will benefit commensurately from increase in ODA. The strength of the UN operational activities lies in its legitimacy as a neutral, objective and trusted partner for both recipient and donor countries. The activities of the UN funds and programs are aimed at providing technical assistance to developing countries in response to their national priorities. To this effect, a significant increase in core resources of the UN development system on a continued and predictable basis is imperative. In fact, increasing financial contributions to the development arms of the UN system is a fundamental element in achieving the MDGs. We regard this as an omission from the report of the Secretary General which can be rectified by being addressed in our upcoming deliberations.

We recognize the merit of the Secretary General's proposals on strengthening the global capacity to confront natural disasters through establishment of the early warning system, setting a trust fund and stand-by arrangement for rapid response to disaster emergencies. We welcome the recommendation of the report on establishing a special emergency fund for natural hazards. We do believe these recommendations can strengthen the ability of the respective organs of the UN as well as countries to respond more effectively and expeditiously to the negative impacts of natural disasters. Moreover, we should strengthen

the regional capacities for disaster management including through the establishment of specialized regional collaborative centers for natural disaster management. All discussions on disaster management at the UN should entail a comprehensive approach to all types of natural hazards with meteorological or geological origins.

While the report attempts to have a comprehensive approach towards the global environmental degradation, it clearly fails to provide broad recommendations to address this challenge. The relevant recommendations of the SG are only focused on three issue namely energy, international environmental governance and Kyoto Protocol, and thus are not all-encompassing. The report does not provide any proposal for addressing the problems arising from the export of polluting technologies from developed countries to developing world and the conduct of transnational companies and the issue of corporate responsibility and accountability. In regard to the Kyoto Protocol, we were expecting the Secretary General, instead of proposing further commitment for developing countries, to call on the big emitters of the Green House Gases to join the Kyoto Protocol and to urge developed countries as parties to the Protocol to take immediate and effective measures to meet their mitigation commitment in the first commitment period.

The proposal of the Secretary General on the governance of the global environment requires an in-depth and thorough analysis since there are differences of views with regard to the root causes of global environmental problems. The issue of international environmental governance, including a new global entity or agency on environment, has been dealt with comprehensively in the International Environment Governance (IEG) process leading to the Johannesburg summit. The IEG process out of different available options namely creation of a world environment organization, establishing a UN agency on environment and universal membership of the Governing Council of UNEP, proposed to the Summit the consideration of the important but complex issue of the universal membership. Recognizing the broad system implication of the issue of universal membership, the Summit mandated the General Assembly to consider this important idea. Consequently, the issue of universal membership of UNEP Governing Council will be considered substantively at the 61st session of the GA. Finally, the proposal on the need for significantly increased international support for scientific research, albeit positive, only addresses one dimension of the issue. Developing countries in order to meet their development goals should have access to new and emerging technologies which require technology transfer, technological cooperation and the building and nurturing of scientific and technological capacity. Adaptation of these technologies to their local conditions is another challenge. In our view, the question before the high level meeting of the GA should be how to ensure access to new and emerging technologies and their transfer to developing countries.

I should not conclude without reaffirming our resolve to continue to constructively engage in the collective endeavors aimed at the reform of the United Nations. Through this important deliberative process, we must evaluate the Report's strengths and weaknesses and try to mitigate or modify the questionable recommendations, with the hope that the comments and results emerging from these deliberations would be given due consideration through this ongoing process.

Thank you
