In the Name of God, the Almighty

Mr. President
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates
Executive Director of UN-Habitat
Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Government of Kenya for its warm hospitality, and the United Nations Human Settlements Program for organizing the 23rd session of the Governing Council. This Council enjoys a particular position in exchange of views and experiences among Governments, local authorities, and other partners.

I am delighted to see that this session's motto, is following the permanent goal of UN-Habitat that is Urban Sustainable Development through "Equitable access to Land, Housing, Basic Services, and Infrastructures"; which is the pivot of macro-plans of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and my Ministry. This is our firm belief that access to secure and suitable tenure is an undeniable right of every citizen; and the crystal clear duty of the Governments is to facilitate this access.

In the context of equitable access to land and housing, the heaven, historical, and great "Mehr housing plan" has already begun throughout our country with the target of revitalization and upgrading of stressed fabrics of rural and urban areas, rehabilitation of informal settlements, and construction of residential units with the following specifications:

1- Granting free lands to build new houses
2- Provision of bank facilities and zero-interest loans up to 80% of the building value and 15 year re-payment period
3- Provision of safe drinking water for all buildings being constructed
4- Construction of sanitation networks and sewage sanitization facilities equipped with the latest technologies
5- Construction of residential units which are resistant to earthquakes
6- All construction by private sector

In the first phase of this plan which started a year ago, construction of 2.6 million urban and rural residential units is on the agenda, and towards this end, over 48 Billion dollars has been allocated as banking facilities. This plan is counted as one of the most successful patterns of community participations in human settlements plans. The Islamic Republic of Iran will be honored to submit all experiences gained in this plan to other countries and nations.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Equitable access to basic services and infrastructures needs economic reform. The Government of the Islamic republic of Iran has commenced the implementation of subsidies direction law as the first phase of the economic evolution plan since the early times of Gregorian New Year, in order to realize the above goals. In the first stage of this plan, the share of every citizen from indirect subsidies is paid by the Government directly to people, and in exchange the prices of energy carriers are set to be unfixed. In these circumstances the low income categories of the society who are always consuming less energy, receive their full share of subsidies equal to other people to other income-categories. And this is how steps to realize the social justice are taken in our country by exemplary participation of people themselves. This plan is a prerequisite of lowering energy consumption in cities. In order to realize the goals of clean and green cities, since many years ago, the Islamic Republic of Iran has put in place laws and regulations to minimize the use of energy in buildings by utilizing right and suitable materials and now compliance with those regulations is mandatory for all new buildings. We are now having plans to lessen the energy waste in the existing buildings while considering the use of renewable energy.

Distinguished Delegates,

Urban Sustainable Development and equitable access to energy can't be realized but through environment protection and enjoyment by all nations of equal right of exploitation from all energy carriers. Obvious discrimination by arrogant powers in monopolizing the peaceful use of nuclear energy as one of the best, safest and cleanest methods for energy production for urban development and environment protection is not accepted by any free nation and human being. The least expectation from such an august session is emphasize the right of all nations in peaceful use of all kinds of e

Excellences,

Ignorance over the evident right of oppressed nation of Palestine, especially in Gaza, to enjoy secure and suitable tenure; and destruction of large numbers of Palestinians' houses which are being repeated in this occupied country, is a clear breach of human rights, goals and plans of Habitat that is like a black stain polluting the white goals of human settlements. Therefore, I call upon to earnestly reflect the objection of this august gathering to this bold breach of human settlements rights of Palestinians and particularly the Gazans by the Zionist regime, in the final report of the session.

Thank you