In the name of God

Statement by the head of the I.R. Iran's delegates to the 19th MOP

18 September

Excellencies,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to extend, on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, my sincere appreciation to the Ozone Secretariat for the organization of this important and outstanding event and to the Government of Canada for its support in hosting the events and for the generous hospitality. I would like also to assert my thanks to the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for supporting organization of the meetings and participation of the parties in this plausible event.

We, the Iranians, believe that the year 2007, as the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol is a turning point in the history of the evolution of the protocol. This outstanding event is a very good opportunity for all of us, the global community, to take a profound look at our actions and to further scrutinize the progresses made and the lessons learnt through the past two challenging decades.

The success story of the Montreal Protocol, no doubt reveals splendid achievements realized by the Ozone Community through the phase out activities to control emissions to the atmosphere of the harmful Ozone Depleting Substances, which has in turn considerably helped to the recovery of the Ozone Layer.

Now we stand at the gate of a new phase of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol with very new challenges forward. We, the developing countries, have only two years left to completely phase out our consumption of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Halons and Carbon Tetra Chloride (CTC). In the midterm and by the end of 2014 we have to make all our efforts to phase out our consumption of Methyl bromide and Methylene chloride (TCA) and still we have to draw our strategies to accelerate the phase out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and to think deeply about the sustainability of our phase out activities.

I have the honor, with appreciation for all the supports we received from all the praiseworthy Montreal Protocol authorities, International and bilateral Implementing Agencies and other parties, to inform the meeting that the Islamic Republic of Iran is very proud of its achievements in phasing out of almost 85 percent of its identified consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances since the accession of the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol in 1990.
So far, we have succeeded to help the global community in its efforts to protect the Ozone Layer by physically phasing out of about 6,117 ODP tones of our ODSs, 99.6 percent of which were CFCs. Our efforts has also resulted in phasing out of 12.4 ODP tones of Methylbromide in the non-QPS post harvest sector and 11 ODP tones of CTC in our industrial sector. A Halon Management Programmed is also in progress to help in Banking and recovery of our Halon Stocks in the country by the end of 2009. We have had the support and effective contribution of the implementing agencies to develop and have our National CFC Phase out Plan approved by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund in 2004, the implementation of which has significantly helped Iran to remain in compliance with its commitments to the Montreal Protocol's control measures for the substance under Annex A Group I. We have now a considerable number of our refrigeration service workshops equipped with the Recovery and Recycling Machines and received necessary technical trainings to reduce their CFC emissions to the atmosphere during their servicing work outs. An import/export Licensing System to control the import of ODSs into the country is now in place supported by a Comprehensive Legislation Plan, which is being enforced and serves as a policy framework and a legally bonded strategy sustaining our phase out activities.

Currently we have an ongoing umbrella project in progress, which is expected to help the early phase out of the remaining CTC and TCA in our Solvent Sector. The same way, our remaining consumption of Methyl bromide in the non-QPS sector is targeted to be phased out by the end of 2012 under an approved project for the phase out of the Methyl bromide in Soil fumigation.

And I am very pleased to announce that we have a National Ozone Network established in an effort to decentralize our Montreal Protocol activities towards the provincial Ozone Cells, in a nationally driven effort to ensure a sustainable phase out of ODSs through a continuous monitoring and evaluation of the converted beneficiaries by the end of and beyond 2010.

I remain to extend my warm appreciation to all the governmental, non-governmental and the international organizations as well as to the people of my country, without their cooperation and support none of the above successes were possible.

I thank you all the honorable parties to the Montreal Protocol for your very credible efforts in Ozone Layer Protection activities.
My appreciation is due to the scientific community, whose intellectual contribution and technical assistances have made all the successes possible.

I am very pleased to appreciate the supports and cooperation of all the international and bilateral implementing agencies and in particular the UNDP in helping the countries to successfully achieve their phase out targets.

My special thanks also are due to the UNEP/ROAP and CAP team for the credible assistances that they have provided to the region's countries in their efforts to remain in compliance with their commitments to the Montreal Protocol.

It is our great hope that we the global community and particularly the Ozone family would remain in our consolidated cooperation to save our fragile Ozone Layer and to sustain a healthy, lively and peaceful planet for our present and especially for our next generations.

Thank you.