

# Women Advocating Sustainable Development

## Executive Summary:

1. This report is based on existing statistics in the 2010 UPR on Iran from the development section. The report concentrates on the development sector and sustainable development. The report deals with the human damages that are sustained by environmental pollutants, which is rarely dealt with in Iran. Of course some of the other factors that must be noted include are sanctions and the dangers resulted from the failure of neighboring governments to implement governmental treaties for the prevention of the pollution of the environment. Certainly environmental problems and dangers cannot just be seen in the regional form, and international attention and intergovernmental cooperation is necessary/ because the negative effects are dangerous to the whole world. For example pollution as a result of dust particles are one of the main pollutants in Iran and neighboring countries. The existing pollution in the capital and many towns and cities in the south of the county's air is one of the most important environmental challenges in the country. Overall in view of the dominant environmental problems in the region, the following objectives in follow up to the plan of action of the World Sustainable Development 21 and the ratification of the Rio +20 with the aim of the future that we want, are some of the activities of governmental and nongovernmental environmental organizations:

- Drawing the participation of research centers and NGOs for the environmental evaluation of executive programs.
- Drawing of support from technical universities in the implementation of projects with the aim of accessing transparent information regarding the protection of natural resources.
- Coordination of environmental NGOs in the implementation and realization of programs in the form of councils.
- Implementation of environmental education programs for biotechnological usage with omissions of pollutants dangerous to humans and replacing the with solar energy and other renewable resources instead of fossil and nuclear fuels.
- Organic farming and gardening and the omission of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agricultural produce.
- Support and backing of NGOs in the unofficial trainings sector for the purpose of environmental culture building of households and entry into the training sector of the Ministry of Education and Training regarding environmental education and transfer of skills via children to families.
  
- The position of implementation of international environmental projects are very important in the improvement of intergovernmental relations; because this debate is a common denominator of neighboring countries. Since the endangerment of living resources lead to the endangerment of economic resources, a request from international organizations for cooperation in the fields of industry and agriculture and the benefit of natural resources for the eradication of poverty and prevention of social harms and reducing the income burden enforced on the people as a result of economic sanctions must be a priority.

Keywords: Participation, development, education, environment, right of access to resources, biotechnology, lifting of sanctions.

**About us:**

2. The Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development is a nonpolitical and nonprofit association that began its activities in 1995, and over the last 18 years has conducted studies and researches on the country's environmental issues for the purpose of raising public awareness of these problems. The Society has participated in the drafting of the environment strategy in Iran with the participation of the Environmental Organization and the World Bank. Through holding education workshops towards face to face education and drawing the participation of citizens for the fight against desertification, hygienic recycling of waste, fight against air pollution in big towns and cities, and education for the optimum use of replaceable natural resources, this Society has made contributions.

3. Following participation in the Earth Summit and Sustainable Development in 1992 in South Africa, through holding consultation sittings and repetitive lobbying, this Society managed to draw the attention of the authorities and decision makers of the country (municipality, Ministry of Agriculture and Construction Action, and other governmental decision makers) to the contents of the Agenda of the World Summit 21, and through innovation and new initiatives has taken steps for the realization and optimization energy consumption. The aim in the implementation of environmental programs, is the application of biotechnology in the environment through the elimination and transformation of pollutants hazardous to humans, and also recommendation for the replacement of fossil fuels with solar energy, and organic farming through the omissions of chemical pesticides and fertilizers have been the fundamental objectives of this Society, and will continue to be considered in future programs. Participation in the Rio +20 Conference in Brazil with the future that we want objective and participation in the International Planning Conference and Post 2015 in Bonn, have increased the capacity and the pursuit of the objectives of this Society. Following getting Consultative Status from ECOSOC, the representatives of the Society read 4 oral statements in the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council.

4. In view of past experiences and also being in Special Consultative Status this Society hopes to make the coordination of environmental NGOs for the advancement of the sustainable development objectives and the implementation of programmes in a council form possible.

**Pivotal Recommendations:**

5. This report is prepared on the basis of the below recommendations which were made in Iran's first round of the UPR in 2010:

- Continuation of efforts for the implementation of the MDG, 20 Year Perspective and Right to Development Program (Qatar).
- Continuation of efforts for the cooperation of developing countries for the full realization of the right to development (Venezuela).

- Continuation of innovative actions for ensuring attention towards social, economic and cultural rights (Bolivia).
- Continuation of efforts for raising living standards through furthering enjoyment of people from economic, social and cultural rights and expansion of social services especially in the rural areas (Kuwait).
- Continuation of programs related to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and fight against problems brought about by illegitimate and unjust economic sanctions (Zimbabwe).
- Sharing of experiences on the realization of environmental culture rights (Tajikistan).
- Continuation of the fight against poverty, efforts to reduce poverty and education and income inequalities (Zimbabwe).
- Sharing of experiences on the guarantee of the right to food and fight against poverty with other developing countries (Tajikistan).
- Increase access to health and education services (Cuba).
- Sharing of experiences in public health and tourism therapy (Pakistan)

**The situation of recommendations in the past, present and satisfactory future:**

6. the subject of development from the environmental considerations perspective is a subject that over the recent years in view of the Program of Action 21 in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 have started, and since then have been the objectives of the activities of the government and particularly the Environmental Protection Organization. This agenda resulted in the forming of a Sustainable Development National Committee with the membership of representatives from relevant governmental organizations, and the secretariat of the Environmental Protection Organization. This committee has 12 sub-committees. The members of most these sub-committees are governmental representatives and very rarely representatives from NGOs participate in their meetings and decision making processes.

7. By setting up 5 technical committees in 2005 the Environment and Sustainable Development Council of Tehran Municipality too has started work with the aim of organization of activities related to environmental issues. Some of the important programs of this Council is culture building and raising the awareness of the citizens regarding city environmental issues.

8. Considering the status of the implementation of international environmental projects is very important in the intergovernmental level, then the threat to environmental resources will result in the threat to the economic resources, migration and geographic changes, and the threat against diversity of life, and the extinction of endangered species. The oil pollution in the Persian Gulf is a clear example of sanctions and the reduction of the people of the region's incomes, because these waters are greatly under the threat of oil pollution from the oil tankers traffic.

9. In the government's future programs the clean energy policy setting based on renewable energy (solar, wind etc.) and green economy have been discussed in the form of an approach in the Iranian government's programs. Of course the organizing and non-concentration on oil and the oil industry is still impossible, but at the same time the use of

renewable energy requires imported technologies and tools. These types of programs, require the active and genuine participation of international environmental protection organizations such as the Global Environmental Protection Union.

**Data Collection Method:**

10. The use of the reports of Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development; the use of website of the Environmental Protection Organization; the study of the Environment and Sustainable Development Council of Tehran Municipality.

**Advancements:**

11. The most important programs of NGOs in the health of the environment and protection of natural resources alongside the government but with their own literature and methods that have been active in include the following:

- Identification of regional environmental problems and issues and recommendations for effective solutions
- Citizens' education and the empowerment of NGOs and volunteer groups.
- Pathology and facilitation of establishment of inter-sectional communication between governmental and nongovernmental institutions.
- Setting up information dissemination and environmental advisory centers.
- Implementation of different projects for the raising of women's status as implementers of sustainable development.
- Drawing of popular participation and creation of impetus for the optimum use of un renewable resources and exchanging them with renewable ones.

**Challenges and difficulties:**

12. In view of the significant improvements with regards to the campaigns of environmental NGOs, problems still exist however:

- Lack of recognition of citizens with problems and environmental pollutants issues.
- Lack of access to correct information and statistics within relevant governmental centers.
- Lack of collective solidarity among NGOs for implementing programmes.
- Not enough attention and little trust of government officials towards NGOs in decision makings.

**Recommendations and Solutions**

13. The following are recommendations and solutions:

Necessity to follow up on recommendations given to Tehran City Council candidates by environmental organizations in 2013.

- Policy setting and follow up of the Plan of Action of the International Earth Summit regarding sustainable development together with other countries, with an Islamic Iranian sustainable development model.
- Policy setting on the production of clean energy based on renewable energy (solar, wind and etc.).
- Green economy must be brought up in government programs with an approach.

- Communication with relevant international organizations for cooperation in the field of the industry and utilization of natural resources for creation of jobs and prevention of social harms through increasing people's income powers.
- Drawing the participation of citizens for cooperation with NGOs through raising their awareness on the negative and destructive effects of environmental pollutants for the present and future generations.
- Drafting of laws and preventive punishments in approaching polluting elements of the environment and the careful application of these laws by the Environmental Protection Organizations
- Drafting and passing of laws in relation to making it mandatory for environmental evaluations to take place in all governmental executive projects.
- Drafting of special regulations for the control and monitoring of food, fruits and vegetables quality distributed in Tehran, buy the Ministry of Health and Medical Training.
- Support and backing f NGOs in unofficial education sector for environmental culture building of households and entry into the education sector of the Ministry of Education and Training regarding environmental protection education and transfer of skills via children to the families can help for the elimination of environmental pollution and provision of environmental health.
- Request international organizations for cooperation in the field of industry and agriculture and utilization of natural resources for the eradication of poverty and prevention of social harms, and reduction of income pressures enforced on people as a result of sanctions must all be priorities in government programs.