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Desarrollo sostenible

Carta de fecha 28 de julio de 2017 dirigida al Secretario General por el Encargado de Negocios Interino de la Misión Permanente de la República Islámica del Irán ante las Naciones Unidas

Cumpliendo instrucciones de mi Gobierno, tengo el honor de transmitir adjuntos los documentos finales de la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Lucha contra las Tormentas de Arena y Polvo, celebrada en Teherán del 3 al 5 de julio de 2017:

- a) Informe de la Conferencia (véase el anexo I);
- b) Recomendaciones técnicas (véase el anexo II);
- c) Declaración Ministerial de Teherán (véase el anexo III).

La Conferencia se celebró en cumplimiento de la resolución 71/219 de la Asamblea General, titulada “Lucha contra las tormentas de arena y polvo”, que se aprobó el 21 de diciembre de 2016 en relación con el tema 19 del programa, “Desarrollo sostenible”.

Le agradecería que tuviera a bien hacer distribuir la presente carta y sus anexos como documento de la Asamblea General, en relación con el tema 19 del programa.

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Embajador
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Anexo I de la carta de fecha 28 de julio de 2017 dirigida al Secretario General por el Encargado de Negocios Interino de la Misión Permanente de la República Islámica del Irán ante las Naciones Unidas

Report of the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms

Tehran, 3-5 July 2017

Introduction

In 2016, the General Assembly acknowledged, in its resolution 71/219, “the intention of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an international event on combating sand and dust storms”. In line with that resolution, the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms: Challenges and Practical Solutions was held in Tehran from 3 to 5 July 2017.

The International Conference was hosted by the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the cooperation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as well as other relevant United Nations entities.

A total of 90 international participants from 36 countries attended the event. Four countries were represented at the ministerial level and five countries were represented at the deputy minister level. Also contributing to the conference were 16 international experts and resource persons.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony included statements from the President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Haoliang Xu, the Vice-President and Head of the Department of Environment of Iran, Masoumeh Ebtekar, and the Executive Secretary of the Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment, Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi. The distinguished speakers highlighted the importance of collaboration among countries, relevant United Nations agencies and other organizations in combating sand and dust storms. They emphasized the urgency of international, regional and national awareness and cooperation on the global problem of sand and dust storms and the need for regional solutions to be identified and then implemented.

Sessions 1 and 2. Ministerial dialogue

Session 1 was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, who invited the Vice-President and Head of the Department of Environment of Iran, Ms. Ebtekar, to chair the ministerial segment. The proposal was agreed by acclamation. Once the agenda had been adopted, chairs were elected for the technical sessions. Introductory remarks were presented by the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Gary Lewis, and an overview presentation was given by the Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the New York Office of UNEP, Jamil Ahmad.

Session 2 was opened by the Head of UNEP, Erik Solheim, who also represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

During the ministerial dialogue, statements were made by the distinguished representatives from Afghanistan, Chad, China, Ecuador, India, Iraq, the Islamic

Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey. Representatives from organizations including the Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment and the Iranian Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Organization also presented statements.

Country representatives shared with the distinguished representatives their experiences of how sand and dust storms had affected their countries and what existing and planned policies and measures they had in place for addressing that issue. Countries emphasized the essentiality of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including the need for participatory approaches.

Countries highlighted environmental concerns that are made significantly more challenging by terrorist entities, such as ISIS, in the region. They also emphasized the challenges brought about by sand and dust storms to their sustainable development and the impact thereof on the ability of those countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There was a reference to the need for joint solutions to “make the planet great” again.

Session 3. Social, economic and environmental impact and costs

Session Chair: Minister of Environment of Ecuador, Tarsicio Granzio

Moderator: Representative of the Regional Centre for Environmental Health Action, World Health Organization, Amman, Mazen Malkawi.

Cross-sectoral cooperation speaker: Charles Kelly

Summary of discussions

While the frequency, duration and intensity of sand and dust storms has increased in many affected regions, the increase in economic growth and the population in affected areas has also intensified exposure to sand and dust storms. The extent to which a country is affected by sand and dust storms is largely dependent on its resilience and ability to access the appropriate tools, mechanisms and resources in responding to them. The more resilient a country is, the greater the number of options available to tackle sand and dust storms, thereby reducing vulnerability.

In addition to their immediate and long-term, wide-ranging economic and environmental impact, sand and dust storms are a public health issue. In all countries that suffer from sand and dust storms, there is evidence of their impact, particularly the serious implications for cardiovascular and respiratory systems. There are, however, some positive side effects of sand and dust storms. One such example is the dust from the Sahara, carried across the Atlantic by the trade winds, which eventually settle on and fertilize the Amazon soils in South America.

Cohort studies are necessary to make the studies on sand and dust storms more relevant to the particular contexts and environmental realities and requirements of different regions. There is a need for greater research and studies in which guidelines are developed for regions where sand and dust storms and their resulting effects take place.

While the occurrence of sand and dust storms can be scientifically determined, quantifying their impact on society, the economy and the environment is more difficult to conduct, owing to the lack of relevant data. There is a clear need to generate high-quality relational data sets. Suggested methods of doing so included utilizing livelihood analysis to determine the socioeconomic costs of sand and dust

storms. Risk assessments should be conducted in a way that is appropriate for all, and there is a need to develop the right mechanisms and tools to do so.

Technical recommendations from the session

- (a) Promote the sustainable management of land and water use, including in arid and semi-arid areas to mitigate the drivers of sand and dust storms;
- (b) Identify a new set of standards to prevent and reduce the impact of sand and dust storms on human health in the affected areas;
- (c) Establish a dust-health early warning system, which would protect human health and save lives;
- (d) Develop standard methods and models for the quantification of the socioeconomic and environmental impact and risk assessments;
- (e) Improve research to fill the gaps between scientific findings and operational works.

Session 4. Source recognition, monitoring, observation, forecasting and early warning systems

Session Chair: Director General, National Environment Protection Agency, Mostapha Zaher

Moderator: Director, Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), C. K. Park

Speaker 1: Representative of the National Centre for Combating Dust Storms, Tehran, Zieaoddin Shoaie

Speaker 2: Expert, University of Belgrade, Ana Vukovic

Speaker 3: Director of the Research Department at the Turkish State Meteorological Service, Mustafa Coşkun

Speaker 4: Presentation of the State Meteorological Agency of Spain by Ms. Vukovic

Summary of discussions

Early warning systems need to build on capacities on risk knowledge, monitoring and warning services, as well as dissemination and communication response capabilities. Scientific research and observations are critical in addressing sand and dust storms. In the light of the variations in the impact and experiences of countries and regions, subregional mechanisms were suggested as a useful platform for exchanging data and knowledge. There are tools, such as the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, that can act as a good source for monitoring dust. However, such tools come with certain limitations. Potential dust sources maps and atmospheric dust numerical models are a priority for forecasting local dust storm events in the early warning system. In order to improve the quality of early warning and forecasting systems, integrating meteorological and land surface observations, air dust concentration and source monitoring in near-real time is required. Harmonized methods should be used for data collection to ensure consistency.

Technical recommendations from the session

- (a) Strengthen the national, subregional and regional capacities of weather monitoring, climate and forecasting models of sand and dust storms in cooperation

with relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, including WMO, through technology transfer and the allocation of technical and financial assistance;

(b) Harmonize the collection, quality assurance and control, analysis, processing, reporting and communication of the required data and information to improve the quality of early warning and forecasting systems;

(c) Integrate the sand and dust storm warning system with warning systems of other sectors into national, regional and global plans and strategies, as appropriate;

(d) Identify and map the sand and dust storm hotspots and their impact at the local, national, regional and global levels;

(e) Establish a dust-health early warning system, which would protect human health and save lives.

Session 5. Policy options, technology innovation and resource mobilization, considering cross-sector integrated approaches

Session Chair: Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria, Ibrahim Usman Jibril

Moderator: Mariam Akhtar-Schuster

Speaker 1: Land degradation specialist at the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, Bassem Katlan

Speaker 2: Chair of the Elion Foundation, Inner Mongolia, China, Wang Wenbiao

Speaker 3: Jacqueline McGlade

Speaker 4: Representative of the secretariat of the Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution, Hassan Mohammadi

Summary of discussions

In order to effectively address sand and dust storms, sound knowledge, good statistics and indicators, effective governance and smart ways of approaching issues are needed. This is particularly key given the geopolitics within the region. Soil pollution and the displacement of topsoil is exacerbated by the various conflicts occurring within the region. Investing in capacity development mechanisms is important to build resilience. The Kubuqi model in Mongolia is an excellent example of successful steps taken to combat sand storms and desertification in Mongolia.

In the short to medium term, there is a need to reinforce protective strategies to reduce the negative impact of sand and dust storms. In the longer term, the emphasis should be on integrated strategies that promote sustainable land and water management.

Remote sensing techniques help in monitoring sand and dust storms and combating desertification. Tools exist for monitoring sand and dust storms, such as satellite imagery, air quality stations and meteorological reports. These need to be better harnessed. There is a need to invest in improving the quality of early warning systems. Scientific and research observations are critical in addressing sand and dust storms. They will facilitate forecasting, which is essential for early warning. Investment is essential in mitigation efforts. Clear quantitative evidence is required in making a case for such efforts to be funded by Governments and ministries, which have many competing needs and sectors that they should satisfy. Good

studies will provide countries with the sound evidence needed and a powerful case for funding.

Technical recommendations from the session

- (a) Promote the use and protection of endemic and appropriate plant species that are able to withstand extreme weather and soil conditions, such as drought and salinity, to reduce the negative impact of sand and dust storms;
- (b) Undertake research and evidence-based studies at the national and regional levels on the factors that cause and accelerate the negative impact of sand and dust storms, such as loss of land cover, overgrazing and soil cultivation methods, and take appropriate preventive measures;
- (c) Raise public awareness within local communities and encourage their participation in mitigating the negative impact of sand and dust storms;
- (d) Provide the socioeconomic incentives needed to encourage local people to implement the necessary measures on their land;
- (e) Ensure that actions to tackle the drivers of sand and dust storms are consistent with the actions recommended under the three Rio Conventions (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity);
- (f) Consider existing initiatives under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa regional action plan to establish a “green wall” on desert margins and other initiatives, such as regional air pollution agreements and policies that have the potential to address sand and dust storms;
- (g) Encourage the developing countries affected to create their own action plans on sand and dust storms at the national and regional levels and seek support from the United Nations and other regional and international organizations for that purpose;
- (h) Develop integrated strategies to promote the sustainable use of natural resources;
- (i) Enhance the access of States, in particular developing countries, to finance, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, science and inclusive innovation and knowledge-sharing, especially through bilateral and multilateral collaborative arrangements.

Session 6. Global, regional and cross-sectoral cooperation and responses

Session Chair: Ambassador of the Netherlands representing the European Union, Susanna Terstal

Moderator: Director, Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, WMO, C. K. Park

Speaker 1: Representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Tiziana Bonapace

Speaker 2: Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Energy, Islamic Republic of Iran, Regional cooperation on sustainable dust disaster management, Alireza Daemi

Speaker 3: Representative of the Regional Centre for Environmental Health Action, World Health Organization, Amman, Mr. Malkawi

Speaker 4: Specialist in Iranian ecology, David Laylin

Summary of discussions

There are many synergies between the Sustainable Development Goals and multilateral environmental agreements. There is a need for a global dialogue on sand and dust storms. There are many existing mechanisms and institutions that aim to address sand and dust storms. What is necessary is that countries cooperate to utilize these existing mechanisms in a more effective and efficient way.

Gaps in effectively combating sand and dust storms include: (a) information (lack of relevant and scientific data and communication mechanisms); (b) cooperation (deeper cooperation and commitment required); and (c) capacity (need for training) and communication mechanisms.

The need for both international collaboration and provincial and cross-border cooperation was discussed. The Hamouns in Iran and Afghanistan were used as an example of an area particularly affected by land degradation and desertification and the necessity for comprehensive cross-border cooperation to address that problem and to protect and restore the region. During the conference, sincere willingness to achieve such cooperation was expressed.

Technical recommendations from the session

(a) Take appropriate action to address the main factors at all levels causing sand and dust storms in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, also taking into consideration the synergies among the three Rio Conventions;

(b) Invite the relevant United Nations agencies to consider initiating an inter-agency process on sand and dust storms globally;

(c) Stress the need for further cooperation and capacity-building through knowledge-sharing, technical expertise, the boosting of technical cooperation, best practices and lessons learned.

Field visits

Two field visits were organized by the Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Organization for the participants in the conference. Participants were able to choose between the Aran Bidgol region in Kashan in Esfahan Province and Ahvaz city in Khuzestan Province.

Kashan: The key principal who took part in the field visit to Kashan was the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Participants were introduced to successful examples of practical solutions to combat sand and dust storms and their effects on land rehabilitation and environmental improvement on more than 200,000 ha of desert lands.

Ahvaz: The key principals who took part in the field visit to Ahvaz included the Vice President and Head of the Department of the Environment of Iran, Ms. Ebtekar, and the Under-Secretary-General and Head of UNEP, Mr. Solheim. Participants visited dry lands that had recently generated sand and dust storms to the south-east of Ahvaz city. Participants were introduced to rehabilitation projects, including a visit to a successful project for restoring the 127,000 ha Hur-ul Azim wetlands, which are an active source of sand and dust storms along the Iran-Iraq border.

Technical recommendations

The technical recommendations were based on the topics of the four technical sessions and were adopted at the closing of the conference.

Ministerial Declaration

The Conference adopted the Tehran Ministerial Declaration. It was discussed during and following the first ministerial dialogue session, and relevant deliberations continued throughout the afternoon of the first day. The Declaration was eventually adopted by acclamation during the dinner hosted by the Foreign Minister of Iran, Javad Zarif.

The paramount relevance of the Declaration lies in its signifying a constructive spirit in the discussions and the commitment of all participating countries to securing benefits for all in the face of the challenges posed by sand and dust storms.

Through the process of preparing the Declaration, countries agreed to cooperate on combating sand and dust storms at the subregional, regional and international levels, including on sharing information, strengthening national legal and institutional frameworks to share early warning information, enhancing public awareness of the impact and cost of sand and dust storms and strengthening research activities for effective monitoring, forecasting and early warning mechanisms.

The Declaration requested that the Environment Management Group of the United Nations consider initiating an inter-agency process involving relevant United Nations agencies to prepare a global response to sand and dust storms, including a situation analysis, a strategy and an action plan.

Closing

The Chairs of the four technical sessions reported on the proceedings of the sessions. The Rapporteur, the Resident Coordinator in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Lewis, reported the key reflections. Concluding remarks were presented by the Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs of UNEP, Mr. Ahmad, and a representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Reza Salamat. The Vice President and Head of the Department of the Environment of Iran, Ms. Ebtekar, presented her concluding remarks and closed the conference.

All participants were invited for a group photo. The International Conference was a useful platform for networking and exchanging knowledge, both in the form of interactions during the course of the conference and through the meetings that took place on its sidelines.

**Anexo II de la carta de fecha 28 de julio de 2017 dirigida
al Secretario General por el Encargado de Negocios
Interino de la Misión Permanente de la República
Islámica del Irán ante las Naciones Unidas**

Recomendaciones técnicas

Introducción

El alcance geográfico de las tormentas de arena y polvo es amplio, ya que se producen en todas las regiones del mundo y tienen carácter transfronterizo. Por tanto, producen efectos importantes en el logro del desarrollo sostenible a nivel local, regional y mundial. Los principales factores que impulsan el aumento de las tormentas de arena y polvo, concretamente en las zonas áridas y semiáridas, son los cambios drásticos en las precipitaciones anuales, la temperatura y la sequía como consecuencia del cambio climático y la ordenación de la tierra y el uso del agua insostenibles.

Las recomendaciones técnicas siguientes se han clasificado con arreglo a los temas de las cuatro sesiones técnicas.

Efectos y costos sociales, económicos y ambientales:

- a) Promover la ordenación de la tierra y el uso del agua sostenibles, en particular en las zonas áridas y semiáridas, con el fin de mitigar los factores que favorecen las tormentas de arena y polvo;
- b) Determinar un nuevo conjunto de normas para prevenir y reducir los efectos de las tormentas de arena y polvo en la salud humana en las zonas afectadas;
- c) Establecer un sistema de alerta temprana de polvo perjudicial para la salud, que protegería la salud humana y salvaría vidas;
- d) Elaborar métodos normalizados y modelos para cuantificar los efectos socioeconómicos y ambientales y realizar evaluaciones del riesgo;
- e) Mejorar la investigación para salvar la distancia entre las conclusiones científicas y la labor operacional.

Reconocimiento, vigilancia, observación, pronósticos y sistemas de alerta temprana:

- a) Reforzar la capacidad nacional, subregional y regional en materia de vigilancia meteorológica, modelos climáticos y de pronóstico de las tormentas de arena y polvo, en cooperación con los órganos y las organizaciones competentes de las Naciones Unidas, en particular la Organización Meteorológica Mundial (OMM), mediante la transferencia de tecnología y la asignación de la asistencia técnica y financiera;
- b) Armonizar la reunión, la garantía y el control de la calidad, el análisis, el procesamiento, la presentación y la transmisión de los datos y la información necesarios para mejorar la calidad de los sistemas de alerta temprana y pronóstico.

c) Integrar el sistema de alerta de tormentas de arena y polvo y los sistemas de alerta de otros sectores en los planes y las estrategias nacionales, regionales y mundiales, según proceda¹.

d) Determinar y situar geográficamente los focos de tormentas de arena y polvo y sus repercusiones en los planos local, nacional, regional y mundial;

e) Establecer un sistema de alerta temprana de polvo perjudicial para la salud, que protegería la salud humana y salvaría vidas;

Opciones de políticas, innovación tecnológica y movilización de recursos, teniendo en cuenta los enfoques intersectoriales integrados:

a) Promover el uso y la protección de las especies de plantas endémicas y apropiadas que sean resistentes a las condiciones climáticas y del suelo extremas, como la sequía y la salinidad, a fin de reducir los efectos negativos de las tormentas de arena y polvo.

b) Realizar investigaciones y estudios con base empírica en los planos nacional y regional sobre los factores que causan y aceleran los efectos negativos de las tormentas de arena y polvo, como la pérdida de la cubierta terrestre, el sobrepastoreo y los métodos de cultivo del suelo, y tomar las medidas preventivas adecuadas;

c) Sensibilizar a las comunidades locales y promover su participación en la mitigación de los efectos negativos de las tormentas de arena y polvo;

d) Proporcionar los incentivos socioeconómicos necesarios para alentar a la población local a aplicar las medidas necesarias en sus tierras;

e) Velar por que las medidas para hacer frente a los factores que favorecen las tormentas de arena y polvo sean compatibles con las medidas recomendadas en los tres acuerdos de Río (la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático, la Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha contra la Desertificación y el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica);

f) Examinar las iniciativas existentes en el marco del plan de acción regional elaborado atendiendo a la Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha contra la Desertificación en los Países Afectados por Sequía Grave o Desertificación, en Particular en África, para establecer murallas verdes en los márgenes de los desiertos y otras iniciativas, como los acuerdos y políticas regionales sobre la contaminación atmosférica que pueden servir para hacer frente a las tormentas de arena y polvo;

g) Alentar a los países en desarrollo afectados a que elaboren planes de acción sobre las tormentas de arena y polvo en los planos nacional y regional, y tratar de obtener el apoyo de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones regionales e internacionales con ese fin;

h) Elaborar estrategias integradas para promover el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales;

i) Mejorar el acceso de los Estados, en particular los países en desarrollo, a la financiación, la transferencia de tecnología ecológicamente racional, la ciencia y la innovación inclusivas, y el intercambio de conocimientos prácticos, especialmente mediante acuerdos de colaboración bilaterales y multilaterales.

¹ Si bien la delegación de Turquía estuvo representada y participó en los debates del comité establecido para preparar estas recomendaciones, al final expresó reservas sobre el texto e indicó que no estaba en condiciones de aceptarlo tal como se había negociado.

Cooperación y respuestas mundiales y regionales e intersectoriales:

- a) Adoptar medidas apropiadas a fin de hacer frente a los principales factores de todo tipo que causan las tormentas de arena y polvo en el contexto de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, teniendo en consideración las sinergias entre los tres acuerdos de Río.
- b) Invitar al sistema de las Naciones Unidas a que considere la posibilidad de iniciar un proceso interinstitucional sobre las tormentas de arena y polvo en todo el mundo;
- c) Destacar la necesidad de que aumente la cooperación y el desarrollo de la capacidad mediante el intercambio de conocimientos prácticos, experiencias, conocimientos técnicos, cooperación técnica, mejores prácticas y enseñanzas extraídas.

**Anexo III de la carta de fecha 28 de julio de 2017 dirigida
al Secretario General por el Encargado de Negocios
Interino de la Misión Permanente de la República
Islámica del Irán ante las Naciones Unidas**

Declaración Ministerial de Teherán

***Nosotros, los Ministros y representantes de alto nivel que participan en la
Conferencia Internacional sobre la Lucha contra las Tormentas de Arena y Polvo:***

Habiéndonos reunido en Teherán con el fin de intercambiar opiniones y compartir experiencias y prácticas óptimas en la lucha contra las tormentas de arena y polvo y contribuir a los esfuerzos mundiales y regionales para dar una respuesta concertada y colectiva a este grave problema,

Recordando las resoluciones de la Asamblea General 70/195 y 71/219, la resolución 2/21 de la Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente, la decisión Cg-XV/3.3.3.6 del Congreso de la Organización Meteorológica Mundial (OMM) y la resolución 72/7 de la Comisión Económica y Social para Asia y el Pacífico, en que se reconoció que las tormentas de arena y polvo representan un enorme reto para el desarrollo sostenible de los países afectados, sobre todo y en particular en Asia y África, y que se necesitan con prontitud medidas coordinadas para hacerle frente en los planos nacional, regional y mundial,

Reconociendo que las tormentas de arena y polvo, cuya gravedad y frecuencia está aumentando en muchas partes del mundo, son perjudiciales para la salud de las personas, las tierras agrícolas, los medios de vida, el medio ambiente costero y marino, la infraestructura y los sistemas socioeconómicos de todos los países afectados,

Plenamente conscientes de que las tormentas de arena y polvo se producen a causa de los ciclos biogeoquímicos naturales de la Tierra y de factores provocados por el hombre, como el cambio climático y la ordenación de la tierra y el uso del agua insostenibles,

Reconociendo que las tormentas de arena y polvo, debido a su carácter transfronterizo, tienen efectos negativos en algunos países y regiones situados lejos de sus focos,

Reconociendo también que la lucha contra el reto que representan las tormentas de arena y polvo requiere esfuerzos concertados y colaboración a nivel mundial, regional y subregional, así como respuestas nacionales para hacer frente a este fenómeno, y subrayando la función de las Naciones Unidas en la promoción de la cooperación internacional y las alianzas entre los países y otras partes interesadas pertinentes para luchar contra las tormentas de arena y polvo,

***Acordamos cooperar para luchar contra las tormentas de arena y polvo en los
planos subregional, regional e internacional del modo siguiente:***

1. Compartiendo información, enseñanzas extraídas y mejores prácticas, intercambiando opiniones y conocimientos especializados, elaborando políticas y medidas de mitigación y adaptación, e intercambiando datos técnicos y monitoreados, así como información sobre pronósticos para reducir el riesgo de tormentas de arena y polvo;

2. Fortaleciendo los marcos jurídicos e institucionales nacionales para compartir información sobre alertas tempranas de las tormentas de arena y polvo, promoviendo las acciones integradas y sinérgicas en todos los sectores y

concienciando al respecto, y fomentando el refuerzo de la cooperación entre las instituciones competentes a nivel mundial, regional y nacional;

3. Aumentando la conciencia del público sobre los efectos y el costo de las tormentas de arena y polvo para la salud humana, las prácticas agrícolas, la seguridad alimentaria, la infraestructura, el transporte, los sectores socioeconómicos generales y el medio ambiente, así como las alianzas entre las partes interesadas con miras a mitigar los efectos;

4. Tratando colectivamente de mejorar la cooperación y la coordinación en los planos mundial, regional y subregional para hacer frente a las causas y los efectos de las tormentas de arena y polvo, en particular promoviendo el uso del agua y la ordenación de la tierra sostenibles, y de ese modo reducir los riesgos y efectos futuros de las tormentas de arena y polvo;

5. Elaborando y aplicando una estrategia sobre la reducción del riesgo de desastres y la resiliencia para promover la ordenación de la tierra y el uso del agua sostenibles en las tierras de cultivo, los pastizales, los humedales, los desiertos y las zonas rurales y urbanas;

6. Fortaleciendo las actividades de investigación que contribuyan a la vigilancia efectiva, las evaluaciones y pronósticos basados en los efectos y los mecanismos de alerta temprana de las tormentas de arena y polvo, a fin de abordar la prevención y mitigación de los desastres y elaborar medidas adecuadas de preparación y respuestas eficaces a las tormentas de arena y polvo;

7. Alentando la cooperación regional e internacional para observar y pronosticar, mitigar y sobrellevar los efectos adversos de las tormentas de arena y polvo, y buscando apoyo técnico y financiero de las organizaciones competentes de las Naciones Unidas con ese fin;

8. Estudiando la posibilidad de seguir desarrollando el diálogo sobre políticas de respuesta a las cuestiones relativas a las tormentas de arena y polvo entre los países interesados, en colaboración con los órganos y las organizaciones internacionales competentes, incluida la creación de una plataforma, en sinergia con las entidades competentes del sistema de las Naciones Unidas;

9. Reconocemos el papel del Centro de Asia y el Pacífico para el Desarrollo de la Gestión de la Información sobre Desastres, los programas de mares regionales y el Sistema de Evaluación y Asesoramiento para los Avisos de Tormentas de Polvo y Arena de la OMM en el desarrollo de la capacidad humana e institucional mediante una cooperación regional reforzada en la gestión de la información sobre desastres;

10. Invitamos al Grupo de Gestión Ambiental de las Naciones Unidas a que considere la posibilidad de iniciar un proceso interinstitucional en que participen las entidades competentes del sistema de las Naciones Unidas con miras a preparar una respuesta mundial a las tormentas de arena y polvo, que incluya un análisis de la situación, una estrategia y un plan de acción. Esto podría dar lugar a la elaboración de un enfoque conjunto de las Naciones Unidas respecto de las tormentas de arena y polvo, que podría utilizarse como marco interinstitucional de la cooperación y la división del trabajo a mediano o largo plazo;

11. Solicitamos a la Asamblea General que examine esta declaración con miras a adoptar las medidas apropiadas;

12. Expresamos nuestro profundo agradecimiento al Gobierno y al pueblo de la República Islámica del Irán por la excelente organización y la cálida hospitalidad que han dispensado a los participantes en esta importante conferencia internacional.