## **Islamic Republic of Iran**

## **Implementation of Economic Policies Aimed at Curbing Pollution**

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## Good morning honorable chair, distinguished delegates and esteemed guests.

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## Air pollution is a major issue that facing the Iranian community and affects their daily lives. Air pollution can lead to serious health problems and even death, as well as health related issues. Air pollution has a major impact on the environment and the plants and animals living in it.

The air in Tehran is so polluted that the government is now cancelling schools, banning outdoor sports, and urging everyone to stay inside. The World Health Organization is advising that people in Tehran avoid breathing outside air unless it is absolutely necessary.

In the past month, the air pollution levels have become dangerously high, forcing many people in the capital to wear masks or avoid going outdoors at all. “This is largely due because the US sanctions against Iran which has limited Iran's supply of refined fuel, forcing the country to burn low-quality diesel” says the Government. Tehran authorities reported last year that 270 people die daily of respiratory disease, heart trouble, and other pollution-related illnesses. One theory is that lower quality gasoline produces more air pollution. According to Sepideh, a nurse from Ahwaz, "The situation has become much worse since Iran started producing so much domestic gasoline. You can even smell that it is different than before.”

President Hassan Rouhani has made urgent and short-term decisions about addressing dangerous air pollution. A clean air bill is currently being considered by Iran's parliament. Over 100 parliamentarians penned a letter to Rouhani last month, urging him to take action.

These are some of the ideas that the cabinet and the president are hoping to implement in the coming year.

* Increasing the share of trips using public transport to travel within the city
* Increase 215 km of bike paths network in Tehran
* Increasing the length of metro network
* Developing a monitoring system to deal with air pollution Tehran
* Increasing more green space in the capital