



*In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful*

No. 2843426

9 March 2026

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the attached letter dated 9 March 2026 from H.E. Ms. Shina Ansari, Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Head of the Iranian Department of the Environment, addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the grave humanitarian and environmental consequences arising from the recent military attacks carried out against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Israeli regime and the United States of America since 28 February 2026.

As indicated in the attached communication, on the night of 7 March 2026, the aggressors' fighter aircraft carried out heavy strikes against several fuel storage facilities in Tehran and other cities. According to the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the explosions at these facilities released large quantities of hazardous compounds—including hydrocarbons, sulphur, and nitrogen oxides—into the atmosphere. This has created a critical situation characterised by severe air pollution and serious health risks for the civilian population, particularly the elderly and individuals suffering from cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.

Moreover, rainfall in Tehran Province on the morning of 8 March 2026 contributed to the dispersion and deposition of these pollutants through highly acidic precipitation. Such developments may result in severe respiratory harm to the population and extensive environmental degradation, including the contamination of water resources and damage to ecosystems and living organisms.

In response to these alarming conditions, all medical centres in Tehran Province have been placed on high alert. The Iranian Department of the Environment has further advised residents of Tehran and Karaj to avoid unnecessary outdoor exposure and to remain indoors to the greatest extent possible.



These attacks constitute a clear violation of international obligations arising under multilateral environmental agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which underscore States' responsibility to protect the global environment and to refrain from actions that may cause widespread environmental harm.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon the United Nations and its relevant bodies to urgently address these developments and to undertake appropriate measures, including condemning environmentally destructive acts and pursuing accountability for those responsible for this manifest environmental crime.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Amir Saeid Irvani  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. António Guterres  
Secretary-General  
United Nations, New York

Cc:

Ms. Inger Andersen  
Executive Director  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mr. Mohammed Al-Ahmad  
Executive Secretary  
Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)

Mr. Simon Stiell  
Executive Secretary  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



Ms. Musonda Mumba  
Secretary-General  
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Ms. Astrid Schomaker  
Executive Secretary  
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Ms. Yasmine Fouad  
Executive Secretary  
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Mr. Alexander De Croo  
Director-General  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana  
Executive Secretary  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Mr. Khaled El-Enany  
Director-General  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Ms. Catherine Russell  
Executive Director  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



## **His Excellency Mr. António Guterres Secretary-General of the United Nations**

Your Excellency,

I wish to draw Your Excellency's urgent attention to the grave environmental and humanitarian consequences arising from the ongoing military aggression launched by the Zionist regime of Israel and the United States of America against the Islamic Republic of Iran since 28 February 2026.

Among the most tragic incidents was the attack on a school in the city of Minab, which resulted in the killing of 170 innocent children. Furthermore, on the night of 7 March 2026, the aggressors' fighter aircraft conducted heavy strikes against several fuel storage facilities in Tehran.

According to the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the explosions at these facilities released large quantities of hazardous compounds—including hydrocarbons as well as sulfur and nitrogen oxides—into the atmosphere. This has created a critical situation marked by severe air pollution and serious health risks for the civilian population, particularly the elderly and individuals suffering from cardiovascular and respiratory conditions. Moreover, rainfall in Tehran Province on the morning of 8 March 2026 has contributed to the dispersion of these pollutants in the form of highly acidic precipitation.

Such developments may result in severe respiratory damage to the population and cause extensive environmental degradation, including contamination of water resources and harm to ecosystems and living organisms.

In response to these alarming conditions, all medical centers in Tehran Province have been placed on high alert. The Environmental Protection Organization has also advised residents of Tehran and Karaj to avoid unnecessary outdoor exposure and remain indoors to the extent possible.

These attacks constitute a clear violation of international obligations arising from multilateral environmental agreements, including the United Nations Framework



Department of the Environment  
Islamic Republic of Iran

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*Vice President of  
Republic and  
Head of the Department*

Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which underscore the responsibility of states to protect the global environment and prevent actions that may cause widespread environmental harm.

In light of the foregoing, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expects that Your Excellency and the relevant specialized bodies of the United Nations will address these grave developments with due urgency. It is imperative that the international community not remain silent in the face of such actions that endanger both civilian lives and our shared global environment. We therefore call for the unequivocal condemnation of these environmentally destructive acts and for the accountability of those responsible for this manifest environmental crime. Timely and principled action by the United Nations will not only help mitigate the current crisis but will also demonstrate the Organization's commitment to safeguarding the environment and protecting civilian populations, thereby ensuring that the international community stands on the right side of history and the judgment of humanity.

With best regards

**Shina Ansari**

Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Head of the Environmental Protection Organization

CC: Ms. Inger Andersen – Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Mohammed Al-Ahmad – Executive Secretary, Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment

Mr. Simon Stiell – Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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Ms. Yasmine Fouad – Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Mr. Alexander De Croo – Director-General, United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana – Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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