

**Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**Management and Planning Organization (MPO)**

**Statement by:**

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**Addressing**

**Ministerial Segment**

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**In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the organizers of the 72<sup>nd</sup> ESCAP Commission Session. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Delegation and I deem the Session an invaluable occasion for the exchange of different ideas and viewpoints. We have convened here to pave the ground for dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable growth for our nations through cooperation and consultation by assessing upcoming challenges and opportunities and by highlighting the importance of regional potentials and capacities in a peaceful and amicable atmosphere. It is essential that we examine and evaluate various ways leading to achieve Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) throughout the whole region and, consequently, take advantage of its outcomes for the elaboration of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Choosing "Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development" as the theme topic of the ongoing Commission Session implies a further emphasis on the exchange of knowledge and information among ESCAP member States at national, regional, and international levels. This undoubtedly requires the expansion of science and technology with a view to adequately meeting the needs of the region. Such an appropriate choice of theme topic

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is consistent with inclusive, resilient and sustainable development since the matter can be classified in the term "Education" as one of the most remarkable elements of SDGs.

Financial Insufficiency and high risk of investment are among challenges facing the development of science and technology all across the region. In this respect, facilitating public private partnership, coming up with new solutions, applying developmental initiatives, strengthening scientific foundations, and building up cooperation between regional academic centers and universities can significantly contribute to addressing these challenges and help reach desirable convergence within the countries in the region.

At the moment, the Islamic Republic of Iran is in the threshold of its 6<sup>th</sup> Five-year National Development Plan. Reinforcement of knowledge-base economy together with the development of advanced technology in a wide variety of subjects is one of the key factors, inter alia, to be taken into account during the implementation of the plan.

Ensuring education for all, supporting free literacy system, providing vulnerable groups with low income with educational opportunities, bringing support to software and hardware products, and developing scientific capabilities are also among the programs to be carried out to help fulfill the Islamic Republic of Iran's motto of the year, called "Resilient Economy".

Mr. Chairman,

In post-sanctions era and after having undergone cruel sanctions unjustly imposed by world powers over the past few years, the Islamic Republic of Iran is making an all-out effort, in the framework of its 20-Year Vision Document and in compliance with the 6<sup>th</sup> Five-year

Development Plan, to be ranked one of the most scientifically powerful countries in the region in such a way that it can ultimately manage, on a broader scale, to help promote the welfare state of other countries in the region with the help of creating balanced, sustainable knowledge-base development and for the cause of a promising future for all.

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We strongly believe that a poor degree of science and technology accounts for one of the most influential causes of the escalation of nations' vulnerability in different aspects of economy. Lack of a relevant structure of safely gathering and providing solid and reliable information can deteriorate such vulnerability.

In this regard, and to the benefit of the entire region, The Islamic Republic of Iran has embarked on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Center for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) in partnership with ESCAP member States, placing the issue as top priority on the agenda. Meanwhile, Iran has taken positive measures so far such as holding training programs and workshops on disaster risk reduction with the presence of a number of ESCAP region representatives. The launch and operationalization of the center will certainly contribute to the enhancement of disaster information management in the region, lead to better encounter natural disasters, and, as a result, reduce corresponding losses and damages. The center, which is hosted by Iran, can bring fundamental changes to the way in which ESCAP countries cope with disaster risk issues as it will make use of all disaster-management-related scientific capacities existing in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Participants,

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In the End, I am confident that this Session will open the door to new horizons in front of all of us in the ESCAP region and towards further socio-economic development leading the prosperous region.

Thank you

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