Statement Delivered by His Excellency Mr. Dr. Pourmohammad Gelsefidi

To

The Seventy Seventh Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

26-29 April 2021

Mr. Chairman,

Honorable Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate H.E Mukhtar Tileuberdi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan for being elected as the chair of the 77th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. I would also like to extend my utmost gratitude to Her Excellency Alis Jabana Deputy Secretary General and The Executive Secretary of ESCAP and her staff in the Secretariat for organizing this important meeting. My delegation is ready to work closely on the work program of the Session and I would like to assure you of full cooperation and engagement by my delegation to bring this Session of the Commission into its fruitful conclusion. I am confident that through constructive exchanges during this Session meetings we could jointly try to address the unprecedented hindering complexities that our nations are grappling with in this period.

Excellencies,

The experience learned from the COVID-19 pandemic reminds us once again that any effective response to a disaster as such, requires no less than a unified action from all governments and nations in the region and beyond. This global pandemic, which has imposed unprecedented human losses and socio-economic damages on nations and communities, must be dealt with shared responsibility and joint efforts at regional and international levels. As correctly said, no one will be safe until everyone is safe and no one should be left behind. Therefore, it is an imperative for all countries and stakeholders to share their capacities, resources and knowledge with others who
are in need in order to overcome this global crisis. I wish to stress the high importance and relevance of the main theme of this Commission: “Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific”. And in this regards, I would like to emphasize on the well-established principles of cooperation and multilateralism in international relations. This is a pre-requisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure inclusion and connectivity in development plans and programmes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken a number of fundamental measures to mitigate the risk and negative impacts of the current crisis resulting from the Pandemic. However my government is facing with a number of challenges which have hampered it from sustainable implementation of the national plans and programs, not only in combating against the pandemic but also in its efforts to recover from it as it is deemed required for the development programs. Financing health national program including transfers for vaccine purchases and production and other medical medicine and equipment is one of the most challenging ones in this context due to unprecedented Unilateral Coercive Measures and illegitimate unilateral sanctions against my Country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to multi-lateral and regional and international cooperation aiming at enhancing capacities and building resilience of countries and people against disasters and crises. It is however a source of great regret that the unilateral sanctions imposed by a few on the Islamic Republic of Iran have made it very difficult and occasionally impossible for my country to enjoy the fruits of active engagement in these international cooperation, Despite this, the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to continue its support to the programmes and activities of the Asia and the Pacific Centre for Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) as a regional institution of ESCAP. In a short period from its establishment, owing to the generous voluntary contributions by my government to APDIM amounting more than $5 million. APDIM has been able to successfully expand its activities and services at regional level and I take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Executive Secretary
and the secretariat staff for their invaluable support to the development and activities of the Centre. APDIM is capable of filling outstanding knowledge and information gaps in disaster risk reduction and support building resilience against disasters and as a result, contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I am pleased to inform you that my government has a wide range of areas of cooperation with ESCAP and its member states including Framework agreement Paperless Trade, Road Safety, Dry port and triple Asian Highways (Road, Rail and Information). I would like to extend other aspect areas to collaborate in other field with the Secretariat like a new comprehensive legislation and National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, integrating disaster risk reduction into development policies and plans including in the 7th 5-year National Development Plan, improving investment and allocation of larger portion of national budget and resources for disaster risk reduction and management and expanding regional and international cooperation.

Thank you very much.