

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Statement by

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Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate your Excellency for presiding as the chair of the 79th Commission Session. I assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation. I would also like to seize the opportunity to express my gratitude to the ESCAP secretariat and appreciate its essential role in organizing this important Session.

Addressing the theme of “Accelerating Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific for Sustainable Development”, the Islamic Republic of Iran highly values the important role that ESCAP could play in achieving sustainable development goals and full realization of the potentials of all nations throughout the region. We are of the view that Multilateralism coupled with Regional Cooperation constitutes the very essence of this session and should be regarded as one of the key enablers of development and central elements in supporting Asia and the Pacific nations’ efforts to thrive and prosper.

Madam Chair,

Our region in post-pandemic situation, is suffering from the consequences of divergence and incoherence such as the lack of means and sources for financing development, and unequal economic recovery between the countries. In this regard we must not falter in our resolve to tackle these challenges based upon the very principle of the right to development and sustainable financing and investment for development for all.

Madam Chair,

The promises made in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development are in peril. The negative impacts of inequality are becoming more prevalent and the gap between developed and developing countries is being widened. In order to overcome this situation and realize the sustainable development goals, we all need to address and pay due attention to the obstacles and impediments impairing national and international endeavors.

Notwithstanding the detrimental effects of restrictive measures against the Iranian nation, my country has made remarkable progress in implementing sustainable development components. In this respect we have done a lot, but in every turn, we are reminded that much more could have been done in the absence of the illegitimate unilateral coercive measures. Unilateralism in general and the Unilateral Coercive Measures which are Contrary to the international law, UN Charter and Humanitarian Principles, in particular, deny nations of their inherent rights, deprives governments of means essential for attaining SDGs and hinder international cooperation in this area.

Madam Chair,

Emphasizing the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, we reiterate that the environment in our region is a single and interrelated ecosystem and should be protected by multilateral, intergovernmental and regional cooperation along with national programs.

The environmental crisis, including land degradation, water crisis, desertification, and finally the terrible phenomenon of sand and dust storms in the East of Asia and other parts of the region have become a huge and serious human crisis.

Sand and dust storms have particularly deprived some affected countries from clean air and oxygen and have threatened the right to life and the right to health and have had a detrimental impact on economic and social life of nations in this region and beyond. In this regard and with reiterating the adverse effects of severe and long-standing drought and implications of climate change in the shape of sand and dust storms, we emphasize on the high significance of the timely and complete implementation of “Regional plan of Action on Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific”, adopted during the 78th Session of ESCAP. Furthermore and in this regard, we recall the “Regional Ministerial Meeting on Environmental Cooperation for a Better Future”, held on 12 July 2022 in Tehran, and its importance in strengthening regional and inter-regional collaborations to mitigate the negative effects of climate change including sand and dust storms, desertification and water scarcity.

Madam Chair,

The Islamic Republic of Iran, despite facing illegitimate unilateral sanctions as well as UCMs, hosting the ESCAP Asia and the Pacific Center for Development of Disasters Information Management (APDIM) and has transferred more than 6 million dollars as well as considerable in-kind contributions, including the

premises of the Center. The Center established in 2018 and has already taken effective measures and provided valuable services in enhancing disaster information and knowledge management and promoting regional cooperation to reduce the risk and negative impacts of disasters. We are of the hope that with the valuable support by the member states and the continuation of the support by the Secretariat, the APDIM could be able to serve more than before the interests of all the people and the countries in the region in the field of disaster reduction and resilience.

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Due to the challenges mentioned above, developing countries urgently need the required financial and technical support from developed countries, international institutions and UN agencies. In these critical conditions, more than ever, a renewed commitment to multilateralism, global cooperation as well as refraining from unilateralism for resolving the developmental issues and comprehensively address the shared ideas and concerns raised are urgently needed.

I thank you