Islamic Republic of Iran  
Item 3d  
Ladies and gentlemen,  

Distinguished participants,  

I am honored to address this esteemed round table discussion on the crucial topic of partnership and regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific. Today, I would like to shed light on Iran's perspective and the most pressing issues we have been facing in regards to population growth and aging.  

Firstly, As a result of implementing the guidelines of the ICPD 1994, and our first development plan, we have encountered a significant decrease in our fertility rate as a consequence. From the 1980s until now, our fertility rate has dropped from 6.5 children to a concerning 1.6 children per woman in 2022. This rapid decline necessitated a review of our population strategies to avoid the detrimental effects of an aging population.  

To address this challenge head-on, Iran has adopted a new strategy notified by the Supreme Leader from 2014 and enacted a law on 2021 that provides incentives in the areas of prenatal and postnatal care services, prevention and treatment of infertility, as well as full and free coverage of infertility treatments among others. These measures aim to encourage couples to have more children and promote a sustainable population growth rate.  

Given our experiences in confronting population aging, Iran is keen to share its best practices with other countries suffering the same problems in the region. We believe that cooperation and partnership amongst nations facing similar population challenges is crucial to finding effective solutions. We stand ready to collaborate and extend our support to address issues related to low fertility rates, aging populations, and population growth decline.  

Moreover, it is imperative to raise awareness on the the consequences that adopting strict family planning policies can have, especially in countries like Iran that need a younger population for its development and growth. By understanding and acknowledging these risks, we can work together and design suitable policies that align with the cultural context and preferences of each country.  

As we discuss how to strengthen regional cooperation and partnership, especially with countries like Iran, it is essential to identify areas of synergy and collaboration. Through mutual support and knowledge-sharing, we can collectively tackle population aging and low fertility rates more effectively.
On Iran's part, we are committed to fostering regional cooperation in the field of population growth. We believe that by exchanging experiences, sharing research findings, and promoting dialogue, we can lay the groundwork for successful collaborative efforts. We are ready to engage in joint initiatives, research projects, and technical assistance programs to address the pressing challenges faced by many nations in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the urgency of addressing the declining fertility rates and aging populations in our region. Iran stands firm in its commitment to reversing these trends and bolstering our population growth. Through partnership and regional cooperation, we can forge a brighter future for generations to come. Let us seize this opportunity to work hand in hand, harnessing our collective wisdom, to overcome these challenges together.

Thank you.