Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference
Explanation of Position by Mr. Ali Hajilari, First Counselor of the Delegation of the
Islamic Republic of Iran, on draft Report of the 7th Asian and Pacific Population
Conference (ESCAP/APPC(7)/L.1) and the documents ESCAP/APPC (7)/2 and
ESCAP/APPC(7)/3
17 November , 2023
In the name of God, The most compassionate, the most merciful

Mr. Chairman,
My delegation, would like to extend its appreciation to the Secretariate of UNESCAP for presenting the draft Report of the 7th Asian and Pacific Population Conference (ESCAP/APPC(7)/L.1) and the document ESCAP/APPC(7)/2 entitled “Review of progress made towards the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, as well as of the Programme of Action of ICPD and the key actions for its further implementation in Asia and Pacific” and document ESCAP/APPC(7)/3, entitled “Impacts of climate change on population and development in Asia and the Pacific”.

At the same time, certain controversial and non-consensus terms and languages in the above two documents as well as the draft report of the conference, can not be accepted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Based on that, my delegation disassociates itself from all of the references to these phrases, including but not limited to : sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights , sexual minority groups, comprehensive sexuality education, , family planning policy, people in all their diversity, people with diverse sexual orientation, persons with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities, gender transformative, gender perspective, gender responsive, intersecting forms of gender-based violence, gender identities, and many others.

Furthermore, in relation to the Draft Report recommendations of the conference my delegation would like to reiterate that, as the outcomes of the reviews of the program of action of the ICPD are not UN member states' negotiated
texts, my delegation disassociates itself from all the references mentioning those outcomes of the reviews. In addition to that, as my country has voted against the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, my delegation would also disassociate itself from the Phrase related to the implementation of this Declaration. It should be noted that on the issues related to population and development, the Islamic Republic of Iran acts solely based on its own national laws, legislation and policies. Regarding the references in the report to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it should be noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers this Agenda as a non-legally-binding, voluntary based instrument simply presenting a number of non-obligatory guidelines, suggestions and recommendations.

My delegation also officially announces that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not committed - at all - to those parts and elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which, in one way or another, are in contradiction with the national priorities, laws, regulations, legislation and policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as Islamic principles, instructions and teachings and cultural and religious norms, traditions and values of Iranian society.

Based on that, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no legal obligation vis-à-vis the implementation of the above-mentioned instruments and in all domestic developmental issues, national upper handed instrument, plans, programs and strategies shall enjoy total priority and would be considered as the sole and final source of action and reference for my country.

Mr. Chairman,
My delegation requests that this statement be put in the records and included in the relevant official reports of this conference.