Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Bangkok

Statement by the H.E. Dr. Nassereddin Heidari
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Permanent Representative to UN ESCAP
At the General Debate of the 81th ESCAP Commission Session
Bangkok, April 2025

بسم الله الرحمن الرحیم

Mr. Chair,
Honorable Ministers,
Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Chair and the Vice-Chairs for their elections. I would also take this opportunity to thank H.E. Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Kingdom of Thailand for the excellent arrangements for the Commission session.

We are honored to gather at the 81st Session of the Commission for convening this timely discussion on the critical theme of "**Promoting Resilient and Sustainable Urban Development in Asia and the Pacific.**"

Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific region continues to accelerate at an unprecedented pace. We believe that rapid urbanization across our region brings with it both promise and peril. Islamic Republic of Iran has made significant efforts to strengthen urban resilience through comprehensive national strategies, including the promotion of renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and climate-resilient urban planning. Our cities are engines of economic growth and social innovation, yet they remain exposed to natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, sand and dust storms, and the compounding effects of climate change and unplanned development. Addressing these vulnerabilities requires a holistic, multi-sectoral, and forward-looking approach.

Many of the Asia-Pacific countries are facing challenges to achieve sustainable development, due to increasing vulnerability to natural disasters and equitable access to clean energy and low-carbon development.

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Bangkok

Hardly ever a year passes by without our region not to be severely affected by floods, storms, tsunamis, earthquakes, droughts and sand and dust storms. The existence of these – natural disasters drives us towards collective thinking and cooperation. Undoubtedly, UN ESCAP could provide us with an invaluable opportunity and a reliable multilateral platform to address such disasters and environmental challenges.

Mr. Chair,

As reflected in the economic and social survey of Asia and the pacific 2025, climate shocks disturbing livelihoods and economics in Asia and the Pacific and many countries in the region are less ready to cope with the macroeconomic implications of climate change and low-carbon transition. While we collaborate and pursue a common goal in confronting natural disasters, for low-carbon transition—particularly securing renewable energy—our efforts are often consumed by confrontation, unproductive competition, or monopolies by producers of clean energy equipment. Consequently, the use of clean energy sources, which requires substantial investment, is marginalized due to the lack of financing.

Moreover, imposing illegal unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) restricts access to cutting-edge knowledge, technology transfer and international financial markets. The Islamic Republic of Iran continue to face significant challenges, particularly due to the imposition of illegal unilateral coercive measures that undermine our capacity to access to technology, financing, and international cooperation mechanisms.

We emphasize that development should not be politicized, and that all countries must have an equal opportunity to benefit from regional and global partnerships. The Islamic Republic of Iran, is among the 30 countries in the region, mentioned in the said survey for 2025 that is more exposed to climate risks, from the macroeconomic perspective.

Facing this complex situation, we need to act with responsibility and work toward an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future for humanity.

In this regard, South-South cooperation, strengthening regional financial institutions to enhance public-private partnerships (PPPs) are among the issues that should be prioritized on ESCAP's agenda from now on**.**

Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Bangkok

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the role of ESCAP and believes that ESCAP offers a significant opportunity to uphold the principles of amity and inclusiveness with a view of transcending temporary and superficial differences, to ensure economic development and prosperous Asia-Pacific community.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has incorporated environmental considerations into its national development plans. In the field of regional energy cooperation, under the Seventh Development Plan of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, priority has been given to the adoption of laws to promote investment in renewable energy, electricity production at the country's borders with the possibility of exporting to neighboring countries, and setting a quantitative target for electricity exchange with neighbors at a minimum of 20 billion kilowatt-hours annually.

In the area of disaster risk reduction, disaster management is a cycle consisting of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery; the most often neglected among which, is preparedness. As the host government of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) since 2016, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken active and constructive approach in disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region through providing voluntary national contribution to this center. APDIM, should play a more active role in preparedness through providing timely access to great databases like spatial database information and Geographic Database Information to the member states.

In this regard, we suggest that cooperation between UN ESCAP and UN Committee on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), to be established, especially as space-based technologies become increasingly critical for sustainable development in Asia-Pacific.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, the Islamic Republic of Iran will firmly support the work of UN ESCAP and will work closely and constructively with ESCAP members to identify, assess and tackle risks such as geopolitical conflicts, unilateral sanctions and climate change and environmental challenges.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also reaffirms its commitment to multilateralism and regional solidarity. We stress that no country should be left behind due to political or economic isolation, and we call upon ESCAP to

continue promoting inclusive dialogue and equitable access to resources for all member states.

I thank you