Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Bangkok

Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 81st Session of the ESCAP Commission under agenda item 3 22April 2025
Delivered by Mr. Mohammad Hadi Daryaee, International Center of Buget and Planning Organization of Iran

بسمه الله الرحمن الرحیم

Mr. chair,
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic Republic of Iran warmly welcomes this session's timely focus on "Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific."

Rapid urbanization has transformed our region's cities into vital hubs of economic and social progress. Yet, unplanned urbanization and vulnerable infrastructures expose our cities to natural hazards including earthquakes, floods, sand and dust storms, as well as climate change and socio-economic challenges. These vulnerabilities hinder sustainable development. For countries like Iran, which faces additional constraints such as illegal unilateral coercive measures, building resilient and inclusive cities is both a priority and necessity.

We therefore call for a holistic and integrated approach to strengthen urban resilience, manage natural resources, reduce disaster risks, and address crises like water scarcity and land subsidence.

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. In the area of sustainable and integrated public transport, Iran is advancing transit-oriented development (TOD) in new urban areas and promoting clean mobility

through the expansion of low-emission transport networks—including BRT, electric buses, metro, and electric taxis.

Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Islamic Republic of Iran also has taken initiatives to ensure equitable and inclusive urban access, such as the development of child- and elderly-friendly neighborhoods and the promotion of age-friendly cities through community-based and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-enabled solutions. Our experience in creating safe and vibrant urban environments for all—especially women, children, and the elderly—demonstrates the potential for localized, people-centered innovations to enhance social inclusion.

Public-private partnerships have played a pivotal role in Iran's urban mobility transformation, particularly through co-financing arrangements for electric public transport vehicles. Furthermore, digital platforms for urban management, participatory decision-making, and waste management innovations rooted in the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle (3Rs) framework are enabling more transparent and circular urban economies.

Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to collaborate with ESCAP member States to advance common goals through pilot initiatives, joint research on circular economy, and knowledge exchange platforms including digital twinning and city partnerships.
We reaffirm our commitment to contribute actively to ESCAP's vision of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities and stand open to mutual learning and regional partnerships in the years ahead.

I thank you