Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 81th Commission session of UNESCAP

Agenda item 6(c)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحیم

Mr. Chair,

First, I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the UNESCAP Secretariat for supporting the APDIM and Ms. Madahvi Malagoda Ariyabandu for conducting and presenting the evaluation report on APDIM.

The evaluation report contains pertinent conclusions and recommendations for enhancing the results-oriented, relevance, sustainability and efficiency of the APDIM Centre. During its five years of operation the Centre has successfully established itself as a relevant and effective entity with a mandate and the potential to fill in some critical gaps that exist in the disaster risk reduction institutional setting, responding to disaster information management needs of member States and key stakeholders. My delegation supports actions to address the recommendation of the Report.

Developing realistic annual or biannual programs of work, focused on achieving short and medium-term impacts with clear progress indicators, are very important in enhancing the efficiency and visibility of the Centre. The program-based budgeting will enhance the credibility, transparency and resource mobilization of the APDIM. Similarly, strengthening strategic collaboration between divisions of the secretariat, other regional institutions and the APDIM, as well as developing a business model for resource mobilization will further enhance results orientation and impact of the Centre.

We agree with the findings of the Report on the need to promote the human resources of the APDIM, adjust staffing structure and program delivery, utilizing various modality for securing the expertise of professionals from member States including the host country. According to the APDIM's Arrangement on Administrative and Financial, the Center could use the skilled national experts in the form non-Reimbursement Loan. My delegation firmly recommends the Center to collaborate and cooperate with national and regional institutions and all related UN agencies that are active on disaster management matters to reach more valuable achievements in its activities.

Mr. Chair,

Despite the challenges posed by illegal Unilateral Coercive Measures, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the host country has extended all its support to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the APDIM. The resources provided were beyond the absorbent capacity of the Centre. According to the financial reports of the Centre, the annual fund balance of the Centre, in 2023 and 2024 has been more than 2.6 and 2.5 million USD, respectively, while the annual expenditures have been around 900,000 USD. This indicates that the Center needs to initiate appropriate programs and projects to absorb contributions. Program based financing and alignment between the contributions and activities will ensure enhanced efficiency and credibility of the Centre.

The Iranian Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) has been appointed as the focal point for APDIM since the establishment of the Center and there was no change in the institutional focal point as mentioned in the Report. The PBO will continue its excellent cooperation with the APDIM.

Before concluding, Mr. chair, I wish to ensure full support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the APDIM and reiterates its commitment to provide all necessary assistance to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the Centre.

I request that the Secretariat take into consideration this statement in all of the relevant topics being under discussion in this session.

Thank you