In the Name of GOD

Statement by H. E. Dr. Ghafari Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development of I. R. Iran, In Ministerial Conference on Transport, 4th Session, 14-17 December 2021

Madam Chair;
Distinguished Ministers;
Honorable Delegations;

I am Amir Mahmood Ghafari, Deputy Minister for Transportation Planning, Ministry of Roads and Urban Development of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the outset I would like to express my deep gratitude and warmly thank for organizing this significant meeting. I am also pleased and honored to have the floor to speak in this worthwhile event among the highest transportation authorities and international transportation specialists and families. On behalf of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development of I.R. IRAN. I would like to appreciate the secretariat team for all efforts and arrangements and hope this conference succeeded best decisions and program for transport in future and prosperity for all.

Madam chair;

The Islamic Republic of Iran highly values the key initial role that transportation could play in trade facilitation, economic prosperity and sustainable development in the world as a whole.

In this regard we are of the view that the development of transportation infrastructures in the Asia-Pacific region is unbalanced.

Lack of transportation connectivity in some regions, insufficient investment in infrastructures and weakness of transport connectivity are obvious. In this respect
and for addressing these challenges effectively, more harmonization of custom’s
rules and regulations in border points is a must.

Unfortunately, thousands of people are victimized in road accidents annually.

On the contrary, the Asia-Pacific region has special potentials and abundant mineral,
energy and human resources, and outstanding transportation opportunities which if
benefits in a common, convergent and effective way, will develop public welfare
and strengthen peace, stability and security throughout the region.

It seems, now is the time to revise macro regional and global transportation policies
and accelerate the modifications; and implementing the adopted decisions
immediately.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I.R. Iran is a major country with a special geographical situation and its suitable land
and maritime infrastructures provide numerous opportunities for the prosperity of
regional transit.

During two years ago Ministry of Roads and Urban Development has invested,
developed and implemented some priorities in different transport projects:

- Iran has conducted "National Comprehensive Transportation and Logistics
  Network" updating studies;

- I.R. Iran in cooperating with Turkmenistan has launched second road Border
  Bridge in Sarakhs, which facilitated transit flows;

- I.R. Iran completed two railway connections to Afghanistan via Khaf-Herat
  route, and to Azerbaijan between Astaras in both countries, which completes
  the missing links on East-West corridor and North-South corridor;

- During the Outbreak of covid-19 pandemic, disinfecting tunnel was
  installed by the Railways of Iran at Sarakhs border with Turkmenistan, which
  led into resumption of rail transportation within a short time;

- I.R. Iran has also taken several steps to improve road safety, including
  cooperation with WHO and UNESCAP on a joint project.

- I.R. IRAN has carried a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding between
  Iran, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, aimed at "Commercialization of KTI
corridor", and finally I.R. Iran Railways in May 2021 proposed ESCAP Secretariat a draft of new Annex to TAR covering the General Principle on Electronic Data Exchange among Railways and between Railways and Control Agencies along Trans-Asian Railway Network, that all this efforts permanently are being presented in its expert committees to the ESCAP Secretariat.

Madam Chair;

Distinguished delegates;

Owing to fundamental environmental challenges, poverty and inequality, and the destructive impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, a renewed commitment to multilateralism and global cooperation and implementation of our defined programs is needed. The conference will pass the action plan of transport for 2022-2026. I. R. Iran is completely ready to support and fully cooperate with ESCAP in this regard.

I hope achievements of this conference led to equally - developed future, peace and prosperity for the world.

I thank you.