In the Name of God. The Compassionate, the Merciful.

Madam Executive Secretary,
Honorable Guests, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct honor for me to attend and speak at this high-level panel Discussion.

At the outset, allow me, to express my profound gratitude to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Ms. Shemshad Akhtar for her tireless efforts and leadership to steering the work of ESCAP especially those relating to girls and women in the region.

As all we acknowledge, never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavor across such a broad and universal policy agenda. In fact, we are setting out together on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and cooperation which can bring huge gains to all countries and all parts of the world.

Although, states reaffirm their commitment to international law and emphasize that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations under international law, but it is important that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity. We also believe that in implementation of the Sustainable Development
Agenda 2030, no one must be left behind, especially women and girls.

Distinguished Panelists,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As, we all agree that 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets are integrated and indivisible, mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda is of the crucial importance and we must invest our full energy and resources as for its realization.

In doing so, Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security for all including women, and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. For this reason, international community must redouble its efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including through ensuring that women have a role in peace-building and state-building processes.

Poverty is the main obstacle in achieving the goal of gender equality and women empowerment particularly in this region. To ameliorate this situation, implementation of the Agenda 2030 as regards to the women and girls is very conditioned with the levels of cooperation, investment, knowledge sharing, infrastructure development, access to information technology, higher levels of education, so on and so forth.

In the meantime, we need for further effective measures and actions to be taken, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of women living under foreign occupation, armed conflict and the on-going violence, extremism
and chaos, which continue to adversely affect their dignity, life, economic and social development as well as their environment.

In this regard, natural and cultural diversity of the world and fostering inter-cultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility is another area where we need to redirect our focus of attention and planning at national, regional and international levels to move towards achieving the goals of sustainable development specially the Fifth Goal.

Honourable Panelists,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic Republic of IRAN is determined to work for a significant increase in investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions in relation to advancement of women at the national levels.

We believe that women and girls must enjoy access to quality education, economic resources and political participation as well as opportunities for employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels.

In this regard, the approach of sixth five years national development plan that is in line with the 2030 Agenda is focused on judicial justice, Islamic human rights, civil rights and equal opportunities for all, men and women and access to judicial services.

In the field of cultural, science and technology for women and family eight goals are recognized which include: strengthening family functioning and status of women in it, escalating the level of female literacy, promoting economic empowerment and job opportunities, increasing the share of women in the comprehensive
social security system, empowering the vulnerable women, promoting women’s health, raising the social and cultural capital of women and family and implementing meritocracy and gender balance in the management of community.

Attention to inclusive social insurance, rural development and empowerment of the poor and disadvantaged tribes, sport, and social investment in the health sector and in the areas of macroeconomics, population and employment, supporting the development of micro-home employment programs, are in among the aims of sixth national development plan.

Thank You