The Islamic Republic of Iran Initiative to Combatting Covid-19 Pandemic

To the UNSCAP Secretariat

Referring to the statement delivered this morning by Mr. Proffesor Beitollahi, we would like to explain further the initiative as follows:

• Combating global pandemic of Covid-19 needs harnessing all the available instruments and measures including the advanced technologies such as nanotechnology. Nanotechnology has provided enormous opportunities and solutions in the areas of prevention (e.g. masks and disinfectants), detection (e.g. nano-sensors) and treatment (e.g. nano-medicines) to combat the current Covid-19 as well as future probable deceases.

• Development and practical application of advanced technologies like nanotechnology to combat pandemic crisis needs close cooperation among relevant institutions worldwide along with implementation of the UNESCAP decisions and programmes. Such measures have been also reflected in the recent note by the ESCAP secretariat titled "Collaborative actions to harness technologies during pandemics". These collaborative activities should aim at – closing the technological gap among countries, through south-south cooperation. To follow such model of cooperation, knowledge and data sharing, technological matchmaking, human resource capacity building and resource sharing is needed.

• In order to achieve such model of cooperation, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to establish a South-South cooperation framework on Nanotechnology to
combat negative impacts of Covid-19 in the context of South-South cooperation by support and facilitation of UNESCAP. We are ready to send a concept note in this regard to the Secretariat to be shared among member states.

I would appreciate that such proposal be reflected in the outcome of the meeting,