Islamic Republic of Iran

Statement by

H.E. Dr. Pourmohammdi,
Deputy for Economic Affairs and Plan and Budget Coordination of
Plan and Budget Organization, I.R. Iran

Addressing

75th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

May 2019

Bangkok
In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious and Merciful

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the UNESCAP Executive Secretary and her colleagues in the Secretariat to arrange the 75th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as an invaluable occasion for the exchange of different ideas and viewpoints as well as thanking the Royal Government of Thailand for facilitating the presence of all distinguished delegations from round the ESCAP region.

Excellencies,

The Sustainable Development Goals are a call to leave no one behind, placing equality at the center of national policymaking. Equality requires that everyone be included in and benefit from development outcomes. Inclusion necessitates people, who are empowered to take advantage of opportunities and reach their full potential.

At the moment, the Islamic Republic of Iran as a committed nation to United Nations is implementing its “6th Five-year National Development Plan”. Reinforcement of knowledge-based economy together with the development of advanced technology in a wide variety of subjects is one of the key factors, inter alia, to be taken into account during the implementation of the plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A few weeks ago a round of heavy rainfalls in Iran caused nationwide floods, during which 70 people have been killed, 170 thousand people needed urgent rescue and relief aids, and 50 thousand people had to evacuate their homes to temporary shelters.
Furthermore, many people lost their properties, urban and rural infrastructures were damaged, factories had to close down, and a significant amount of agricultural crops were destroyed.

Meanwhile, amongst these huge catastrophic natural disasters, even the Iranians living abroad could not send their families the aides they needed. It was merely as the result of inhumane unilateral sanctions against our people. We are here at this important event to echo the values embedded in equality, inclusiveness and empowerment as the core of multilateralism. We believe there is an urgent need to apply UN “leave no one behind policy” in all regional and international cooperation and mechanisms.

Excellencies,

As a step toward finding an answer for natural disaster challenges, the Islamic Republic of Iran, thanks to the support from UN ESCAP member states and associate members, has initiated establishing the “Asian and Pacific Center for the Development of Disaster Information Management” (APDIM) in Tehran, as passed in ESCAP Resolution 71/11.

I will elaborate more on this regional institution under the Agenda Item 4 (d) of this Commission. But allow me to depict you with a foreshadowing: APDIM held its third session in Tehran on 19 December 2018. The Council reviewed the Centre’s work since its second session and expressed its appreciation to the Centre for initiating all the key programs of the approved work plan for 2018 in accordance with the strategic plan and the three thematic pillars as follows: information and knowledge sharing, capacity development, and regional information services for cross-border disasters.

The Council also reviewed the administrative and financial status of the Centre. It welcomed the opening of the Centre and its operationalization in Tehran and noted
with appreciation all-out efforts made to establish APDIM as a regional institution of ESCAP in line with Commission resolution 71/11.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Another important ESCAP initiative is the very important “Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum”; to be co-hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran and under the theme of the “Technology Start-ups for Sustainable Development”. This unique gathering will be held from June 10th to 12th, just few days after this Commission at Tehran.

Endeavoring to achieve the goals aimed at the “National Comprehensive International Scientific Relations”, on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran; I’ve the honor to re-invite all ESCAP member states to APIF 2019; we believe that Science and Technology is the best accelerator of Sustainable Development.

Excellencies,

On behalf of the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to emphasize on my country’s willingness and readiness to promote multilateral cooperation with ESCAP and its members States and associate members.

I hope that our discussions will open new horizons for further economic and social development and cooperation in the Asia and Pacific region.

Finally; my delegation avails itself of this opportunity to congratulate Ibu Armida as the new Executive Secretary of ESCAP; Excellency, please be assured that you have all member and associate member states support in your way to manage the very productive regional commission of ESCAP in the Asia and the Pacific.

Thank you.