

I. Developing an Action Plan to Address Urban Growth in the Asia-Pacific Region

In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful, the Islamic Republic of Iran **recognizes** the inherent challenges presented by unequal rates of urban population growth and urban expansion. Since the founding of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MRUD), Iran has been **committed** to creating sustainable cities that do not infringe upon the environment, **eliminating** poverty, and **preventing** the loss of cultural heritage through smart management. With an urban population of nearly 70%, Iran has good reason for striving to reach the 1st, 7th, and 8th UN MDGs.

After the 1940s and a recession of our agricultural industry, our population experienced a massive shift towards urban city centers. **Because** of this shift, Iran is learning to cope with a large urban population. Iran is reducing poverty and striving to meet Sustainable Development Goal 11, and is encouraging an even distribution of population throughout its urban landscape by using a government-controlled system of land allocation and social welfare in housing. In addition to the above-referenced changes, the MRUD leads and organizes the development, regeneration, and renovation plans in old, worn-out and inefficient urban localities to empower the residents and to improve the urban living environment. Iran hopes that the experience it has with planning for a nation with a large urban population will provide the valuable insight needed for the states of the rapidly urbanizing Asia-Pacific region.

Iran faces the problem of frequent earthquakes. These disasters pose a major threat to our infrastructure. Poverty is only worsened by the mass destruction of buildings, and maintaining culturally significant structures becomes a nigh-impossible task. The MRUD manages and standardizes all construction materials, ensuring that the devastation of these types of natural disasters are diminished. The delegation of Iran suggests the effective implementation of construction standards in growing cities to ward against not only earthquakes, but all forms of natural disasters that the states of the Asia-Pacific region face. Unchecked urban growth leads to not only poverty, but also the loss of cultural identity. To combat this, the MRUD promotes the art of Iran's heritage and observes different styles of traditional and national architecture. The system of land allocation implemented by the MRUD prevents the degradation of the environment, which is as much a part of a state's culture as is the landmarks they construct.

To combat the effects of an ever-expanding urban population and an unequal rate of urban development, the delegation of Iran **urges** the states of the Asia-Pacific region to adopt a system of government oversight reflecting the one that is already present in Iran. With effective cooperative research and development, a well-planned system of land allocation backed by an organized government organization can be created for and tailored to each individual state. This system will combat poverty, preserve the environment, and prevent the loss of cultural identity in member states.

II. Examining the Impact of Organized Crime on Sustainable Development

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate and Merciful: The Islamic Republic of Iran is a nation committed to the virtues of Justice, Stability, and Rule of Law. There is no greater measure of a Just, progressive society than the security of its people and respect for the rule of law. Because of this, we **reaffirm** our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG), and to the people of the world who seek cooperation in achieving these goals. We continue to seek to promote peaceful and inclusive development, provide justice for all, and build effective institutions in line with SDG 16. **Furthermore**, we seek to eradicate the disease of poverty from the region, and to encourage and promote cooperation in establishing institutions of peace and security to ensure the further stability of central Asia.

Recognizing the threat to regional peace and effective rule of law posed by the international drug trade, the Islamic Republic of Iran has effectively utilized international cooperation as a tool of policy-making and funding to help reduce drug dependency and combat trafficking across our borders. Our region has been plagued by drug addiction, with a death toll from addiction and addiction related disease rising by as much as 5% in Iran alone. However, **through** international funding, cooperation, and the robust legal system of Iran, We and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have successfully implemented programs that reduce both the supply and the demand for illegal drugs in Iran, combat illness associated with drug addiction and dependency, and foster communication between divisions of law enforcement responsible for the seizure of illegal drugs at our borders. These initiatives have not only objectively reduced the demand for illegal drugs within our borders, but have also greatly reduced the supply of illegal drugs in transit elsewhere throughout the region with record seizures of narcotics in the past decade. These programs have helped restore the rule of law in Iran, and have loosened the hold that the poison of drug addiction has on the least fortunate in Iran. **Because** of the tremendous successes already achieved through cooperation with the UNODC and neighboring states through the Triangular Initiative, and the application of comprehensive drug demand reduction programs like NOROUZ; we hope to see similar results throughout the region by establishing dialogue with neighboring states and other peace-loving peoples who value the rule of law and spirit of cooperation.

We cannot combat the growing problem of Drug trafficking and addiction in the region alone, nor do we wish to exercise imperialistic dictation of anti-drug policy to the region. **Only** through this spirit of cooperation, dialogue, and multilateralism can effective measures against the problem be discovered and implemented. It is the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran that, while preserving the sovereignty of each individual state is of paramount importance, **there can be no half-measures** to eradicate the grasping diseases of drug trafficking and addiction. Even if the region is partially liberated from drug addiction, drug manufacturers and smugglers will not cease to plague our beautiful lands and stifle our attempts at achieving regional prosperity until we act resolutely to put an end to their sinister enterprise. We as cannot establish truly effective institutions until the threat of transnational drug trafficking is eliminated once and

for all. Any effort to combat the problem of transnational drug trafficking must be swift and effective, yet collaborative and multilateral. **Because** at its core, the burden of bringing justice to drug traffickers and protecting the less fortunate is one all peace-loving people truly committed to the sustainable development goals share.