**Statement by   
H.E. Mr. Ismail Najjar,   
Deputy Minister of Interior   
Head of the National Disaster Management Agency  
  
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بسم الله الرحمن الرحیم**

**Mr. President;   
Excellences;   
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank UNDRR Secretariat and the Government of Switzerland for all their efforts in organizing this important Global Platform. As the representative of a disaster prone country, let me share with you some thoughts about policies and measures taken by my country to reduce the disasters' risks. I would like to refer to the following:

1. Preparing a of comprehensive disaster risk reduction plan;

2. Promoting the National Disaster Management Agency to a high level Council chaired by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

3. Developing insurance packages for agricultural sector aimed at mitigating the effects of drought and floods on the farmer’s livelihood;

4. Establishment of local Disaster Risk Management Units in small towns and cities;  
5. Raising public awareness and development of human resources for promotion of preparedness, including through incorporation of the concept of DRR in the school and academic textbooks;

6. Promotion of seismic observation networks and national capacity for ground vibration measurement;

7. Identification of possible natural hazards in the capital city of Tehran, a multi-hazard approach considering earthquake, floods and landslide as well as flood forecasting and early warning systems in Tehran metropolitan;

8. Allocation of 5% of country’s total annual budget to DRR, out of which 3% is earmarked for prevention and 2% for rapid response and reconstruction;

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Given the importance of international cooperation in DRR, my government has spared no effort in promoting regional cooperation with regard to prevention, preparedness and rapid response. We have contributed to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to adopt a Regional Framework for DRR, as a roadmap for implementation of SFDRR. In addition, we are in the process of establishment of the Asia and Pacific Center for Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), in Tehran in cooperation with UNESCAP.

**Distinguished delegates;**

During the past two months, 26 out of 31 provinces in Iran encountered unprecedented flooding which affected more than 240 cities and 4304 villages. During this period, 171 thousands residential units was destroyed or damaged. It required a record mobilization of our human and material resources to manage the crisis, both during the disaster and its aftermath. We could hardly afford to manage this extensive crisis without the overwhelming support and assistance rendered through mobilization of all national and local capacities envisaged in the contingency plan, including the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the Army, Sepah e Pasdaran, and many grass root NGOs that rushed to the help of their compatriots. During relief and rescue operations, 250000 (two hundred fifty thousands) people were evacuated and resettled. That was a unique experience in terms of maximum mobilization of forces and effective cooperation and coordination which helped us minimize human death and casualty.

While we are appreciative of all the sympathy and assistance offered by many governments as well as the international humanitarian organizations, we note with deep regret that the United States' abhorrent policy of intimidation and bullying did not even spare the humanitarian cause. The American unlawful coercive measures and sanctions, as inhuman and cruel as they are, impeded the flow of international humanitarian assistance to Iranian men, women and children in urgent need. This is outrageously malignant, a detrimental blow to the cause of human solidarity and a sad set- back in human civilization.

We call upon all responsible States and relevant international bodies including the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its related thematic rapporteurs to take this unsettling development seriously and to hold the United States authorities to account for their persistent unlawful unilateral actions which hampers international cooperation in mitigating the human suffering.

**Dear Participants,**

The key question to be asked is whether we have entered an era in human civilization that human solidarity and cooperation to ease the suffering of fellow men and women is to be sanctioned and criminalized?   
  
  
**I thank you for your attention.**