

Statement of I.R. Iran on
“Strengthening health emergency preparedness and response in cities and urban settings”

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for this progress report. The authors have diligently identified the weaknesses in disaster risk management across countries and proposed operational solutions to address those. Clearly, managing global disaster risks requires both public determination and political commitment at macro levels. However, there are some crucial points in the document that warrant consideration.

As highlighted in the Sendai Framework, the world's new approach emphasizes risk management over disaster management. One aspect overlooked in the report is the risk assessment section. Given the diverse backgrounds of different countries, it becomes imperative to identify vulnerabilities, capacities, and potential risks specific to each nation. This information can then inform effective planning with a sustainable development perspective. Systematic risk identification, prioritization, and assessment within regions should be integral to the approach.

Another urgent matter involves separating politics from health. International health organizations must advocate for a clear distinction between government policies and public health. Only by doing so, we can adopt a preventive approach to mitigate human disasters.

Allocating sufficient resources for applied research based on needs assessments is also critical. Scientific evidence should guide policymaking at the highest levels of government. Additionally, empowering human resources—especially managers—to prioritize risk understanding aligns with the Sendai document's core objectives.

To further enhance disaster risk management, we should focus on community-oriented programs and foster a culture of preparedness. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems using quantitative indicators will help assess existing and future programs effectively.

Last but not the least is that, conducting research needs assessments in the field of disaster risk management and translating scientific findings into practical strategies is essential. Let's work together to turn science into actionable plans for a safer world.

Thank you Madam/Mr. Chairperson