



While the main responsibility lies on the national governments, from an international perspective, these challenges, as well as opportunities can be addressed through, inter alia, promoting international cooperation, strengthening capacity building, transfer of technologies, fulfillment of the commitments by developed countries including for the ODA and realization of the right to development.

Today, international migration and

ation live in urban areas which is above the world average rate.

Within such context, the Government has developed considerable initiatives with a particular focus on empowerment of women, the youths and older persons, towards eradicating poverty, inequalities and disparities in urban areas, while recognizing the central role of the family as a priority area in achieving social development.

It is noteworthy that my country has hosted a huge population of refugees, in some period their numbers reached more than three million. Despite the high costs of the hospitality, arising from hosting such a large number of refugees, also under illegal and unfair foreign economic sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has stuck to its humanitarian commitments and among other services, provided the children of undocumented refugees in Iran with the opportunity to receive education in the Iranian schools.

I would like to mention that my country will be hosting the seventh Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development planned to be held from 22 to 24 October 2018 in Tehran. The Conference will provide the opportunity to discuss and review the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in its first years of implementation in a region with the highest population density and fastest urbanization rate. The Conference will also be seen as an opportunity to strengthen South-South cooperation and exchange of experiences among the member states, and similar regional forums as well as relevant United Nations offices and regional arrangements.

To conclude, **Mr. chairman!** the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its commitment to collaborate with other member states as well as the UN system in pursuing our common development goals.

I thank you!