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Statement by the Hon. **SEYED ALI MADANIZADEH**,
Governor of the IBRD for **THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

Statement by the Hon. Seyed Ali Madanizadeh,
Governor of the IBRD for the Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Honorable Ministers of Finance and Economic Affairs,
Distinguished Governors of Central Banks,
Excellencies, Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to participate in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. I would like to express my appreciation to the Government and people of Thailand for their warm hospitality and for providing an important platform for dialogue among members of the international community.

This year's Meetings are taking place at a time when the global economy is facing an unprecedented combination of shocks. Geopolitical developments, conflicts and wars, growing uncertainty in trade and investment, debt pressures, climate change, and rapid technological transformation have made the global economic environment increasingly complex.

Before proceeding to the main topics, I would like to pay tribute to the memory of all the martyrs of the war, particularly the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who was martyred in the inhumane military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We pay our deepest respects to their memory and extend our heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones. Their loss reminds us once again of the heavy human cost of war and the urgent need to safeguard peace, security, and human dignity.

In these circumstances, the key question is how we can strengthen global economic resilience without placing a disproportionate burden on developing countries and vulnerable populations.

1. The Need to Reform the International Financial Architecture

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that recent developments in the global economy have made the need to reform the international financial architecture more evident than ever. International financial institutions should provide representation that better reflects the realities of today's global economy, and the voice of developing countries in decision-making processes should be strengthened. Access to development finance should also be based on the genuine needs of countries and provided on a non-discriminatory basis.

The World Bank and

the International Monetary Fund can play an important role in narrowing the development financing gap, supporting investment in infrastructure, and helping developing countries address external shocks. We believe that economic multilateralism can have genuine meaning and credibility only when opportunities, responsibilities, and access to resources are distributed in a fair and balanced manner.

2. Unilateral Sanctions and Obstacles to Development

One of the challenges that the Islamic Republic of Iran has faced for many years is the extensive impact of unilateral sanctions and coercive economic measures on economic activity and development. Sanctions do not merely create constraints at the governmental level. They affect trade, investment, technology transfer, access to financial resources, and ultimately the lives and welfare of ordinary people.

From the perspective of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the international financial system should not be used as an instrument of political pressure. We emphasize the importance of neutrality, inclusiveness, and equal access to the international financial system. We expect international financial institutions, within the framework of their mandates, to take into account the humanitarian and developmental consequences of restrictive economic measures.

3. War and Military Aggression, A Threat to Economic Development

Honorable Ministers and Governors of Central Banks,

Allow me to address an issue of particular importance to the Islamic Republic of Iran. My country has been subjected to war and military attacks. In addition to human losses, these attacks have caused damage to infrastructure and economic activity and have affected trade, investment, production, and economic stability.

The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is clear:

- The sovereignty and territorial integrity of states must be respected, and disputes should not be resolved through the use of force or military attacks.

- Iran will defend its right to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity against aggression.

- At the same time, we emphasize the need to end hostilities, prevent the further expansion of conflict, and resolve disputes through dialogue and the mechanisms of international law.

From an economic perspective, war does not merely destroy physical infrastructure. It reduces investment, increases transaction costs, disrupts supply chains, and diverts resources that should be devoted to development, employment, education, and public welfare toward crisis management.

Therefore, peace and stability are not only political and humanitarian necessities; they are also prerequisites for sustainable economic development.

4. The Responsibility of International Financial Institutions in Times of Crisis
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Recent experience has demonstrated that today's world is exposed to shocks that do not respect national borders. Financial crises, pandemics, wars, disruptions to supply chains, energy crises, and climate-related events can rapidly transmit their effects across countries.

In such circumstances, international financial institutions should move beyond a purely reactive approach and strengthen their capacities for prevention, crisis management, and post-crisis reconstruction. It is also essential that, when assessing

countries' financing needs, the consequences of war, sanctions, natural disasters, and other external shocks be taken into fair consideration.

5. Investment, Infrastructure, and the Private Sector

One of the important themes of this year's Meetings is mobilizing private capital for jobs and development. This is particularly important for developing countries. However, attracting private investment requires more than financial resources alone. Investors need stability, security, adequate infrastructure, access to markets, and an efficient financial system.

The World Bank can therefore play a more effective role in directing capital toward developing countries through risk-mitigation instruments, investment guarantees, and partnerships with the private sector. The Islamic Republic of Iran, with its significant capacities in energy, transportation, transit, industry, mining, and technology, is ready to expand economic cooperation and investment partnerships with countries around the world.

6. South-South Cooperation

We also attach great importance to South-South cooperation. Developing countries possess valuable experience and capacities in many areas, ranging from infrastructure and energy development to digital transformation, food security, financing, and regional trade. Strengthening such cooperation can complement multilateral cooperation and contribute to a more balanced global economic system.

The Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to share its capacities within regional and international frameworks with its partners.

7. Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and the Economy of the Future

Digital transformation and artificial intelligence offer important opportunities to increase productivity, create jobs, and improve public services. However, we must ensure that the technology gap does not become a new source of division between developed and developing countries. Equal access to technology, the development of digital infrastructure, knowledge transfer, and the strengthening of human capital should be integral parts of the global development agenda.

Developing countries should not merely be consumers of technology. They should also have the opportunity to participate in knowledge production, technological development, and value creation.

Distinguished Delegation,

The world today needs cooperation more than ever.

If our objective is to build a more stable and resilient global economy, we must recognize that peace, development, and economic justice are inseparable. We cannot speak of sustainable development while ignoring war and insecurity.

We cannot speak of inclusive growth while ignoring unequal access to finance and technology. And we cannot speak of multilateralism while the voices of developing countries remain insufficiently reflected in global economic decision-making.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the future of the global economy should be built upon cooperation, mutual respect, respect for national sovereignty, equitable access to development opportunities, and opposition to the politicization of economic and financial instruments.

Iran stands ready to work with all members of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to strengthen economic cooperation, expand trade and investment, promote technology transfer, and enhance the resilience of national and regional economies.

We hope that these Meetings will contribute to shaping a global economy in which development, security, and opportunity are accessible to all.

Thank you for your attention.