بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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

Statement by Mr. Yahya Aref, representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Preparatory Committee for the Conference on

Elaboration of a Convention on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters

Draft decision on NGOs

4 September 2026-New York

Mr. Chair.

We wish to underline the intergovernmental nature of treaty making processes once again. As per resolution 80/169 of the General Assembly, the Secretariat has been entrusted with the task of drawing up a list of NGOs whose technical work are relevant to the Conference, based on transparency and equitable geographical distribution for consideration of Member States. Acting in that consequence requires proper information on the nature, objectives, potential relevance, sources of financing and any conflict of interest, among others.

Whereas intergovernmental organizations, that are not comparable in nature to NGOs have to undergo specific requirements to be able to participate in the United Nations and whereas NGOs having consultative status need to pass certain criteria to attend UN meetings, it would be incongruous, unfair, and consistent with the rule of transparency to allow other NGOs to participate without being subject to any criteria in practice or process of validation by the UN Membership.

Presently, only name of NGOs and their relevant country have been mentioned in the list which is not consistent with the transparency required for NGO participation nor is it possible to confirm if their work are relevant to the Conference. As such, the NGOs list cannot be considered; clearly the Committee was also not able to consider the same and has had to refer it to a vetting process whereby more information is provided on NGOs and Member States could object to NGOs in good faith.

To conclude, I wish to reserve our right to reject any NGO in the list, including, whose work in our view is not relevant to the work of the Conference or on which no proper

information has been provided. In particular, we reject any such NGO whose work run counter to our religious and cultural specificities.

Even though, no NGO participation has been approved by the Committee through the Draft Decision, we would like to place our reservation and understanding that the reference made to the NGOs list in the Draft Decision does not in any manner indicate any implicit or explicit acceptance of my country of participation of any NGO to which we have observations or objections. I would like to request that the present statement be placed in the records and reports of the meeting.

I thank you.