

ANNEX I

**Agreement between
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
and the
Islamic Republic of Iran
regarding the establishment of the
Regional Education and Research Center on Earthquake Risk
Management and Resilience for West and Central Asia at the
International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, IIEES,
Tehran, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO
focused on Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management**

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Having regard to the resolution whereby the UNESCO General Conference seeks to favour international cooperation in respect of the establishment of the Regional Education and Research Center on Earthquake Risk Management and Resilience for West and Central Asia at the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, IIEES, Tehran, Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO focused on Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management,

Considering that the Director-General has been authorized by the General Conference to conclude with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran an agreement in conformity with the draft that was submitted to the General Conference,

Desirous of defining the terms and conditions governing the framework for cooperation with UNESCO that shall be granted to the said centre in this Agreement,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 – Definitions

1. In this Agreement, “UNESCO” refers to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
2. “Government” means the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
3. The “centre” means the Regional Education and Research Center on Earthquake Risk Management and Resilience for West and Central Asia at the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, IIEES, Tehran, Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO focused on Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management.
4. “Science Sector” refers to the Natural Science Sector of UNESCO.

Article 2 – Establishment

The Government shall agree to take, in the course of 2020, any measures that may be required for the establishment of the Regional Education and Research Center on Earthquake Risk Management and Resilience for West and Central Asia at the International Institute of

Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, IIEES, Tehran, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO, as provided for under this Agreement, hereinafter referred to as “the centre”.

Article 3 – Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions governing collaboration between UNESCO and the Government concerned and also the rights and obligations stemming there from for the parties.

Article 4 – Legal status

1. The centre shall be independent of UNESCO.
2. The Centre shall be an integral part of IIEES, which enjoys within its territory the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity to:
 - a) contract;
 - b) institute legal proceedings;
 - c) receive subventions;
 - d) obtain payments for services rendered;
 - e) acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property and
 - f) acquire as necessary, the means to fulfill its mandate.

Article 5 – Functions/objectives

The functions/objectives of the centre shall be to:

1. Undertake research and development in main fields of earthquake risk mitigation and management to contribute to better understanding of the risk posed by earthquakes.
2. Support policy elaboration and development for disaster risk mitigation by undertaking activities such as assistance to the Governments in the design of policies mitigating disaster risk and impact – performing (inter alia) activities such as risk reduction, preparedness, post disaster needs assessment, damage surveys, post-disaster reconnaissance missions, assessment of physical, functional and economic losses; assessment of social effects of disasters and planning of measures and activities for disaster response, recovery, re-development and protection of disaster stricken regions.
3. Promote education and training to provide transfer of knowledge in the area of earthquake risk management at different levels.
4. Support development, implementation and improvement of technical regulations, standards and guidelines in the field of DRR.
5. Conduct research and development in advanced methods, techniques and tools for earthquake loss assessment, rapid response, decision support, etc.
6. Promote a culture of risk prevention and community awareness through organization of workshops, seminars, drills, debates and other events, as well as through publications.
7. Provide services - consultancy, expert studies, technical advices, etc.
8. Participate in regional partnerships and networks devoted to the collection and dissemination of relevant information and knowledge on earthquake risk reduction and management.

Article 6 – Governing Board

1. The centre shall be guided and overseen by a Governing Board (or comparable body) renewed every five years and which includes:
 - a) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO
 - b) a representative of Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology

- c) the President of the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES)
 - d) representatives of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which have sent to the centre notification for membership, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 9.
 - e) and five distinguished experts on earthquake risk reduction and management of Iran to be proposed by IIEES.
2. The Governing Board shall:
- a) approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
 - b) approve the annual work plan of the Centre, including the staffing table;
 - c) examine the annual reports submitted by the director of the Centre, including a biennial self-assessment reports of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
 - d) examine the periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements of the Centre and monitor the provision of such accounting records necessary for the preparation of financial statements;
 - e) adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;
 - f) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre .
3. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either on his or her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of the majority of its members.
4. The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.

Article 7 – UNESCO's contribution

1. UNESCO may provide assistance, as needed, in the form of technical assistance for the programme activities of the centre, in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO by:
 - a) providing the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the centre;
 - b) engaging in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations; and
 - c) seconding members of its staff temporarily, as may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a strategic programme priority area.
2. In all the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO's programme and budget, and UNESCO will provide Member States with accounts relating to the use of its staff and associated costs.

Article 8 – Contribution by the Government

1. The Government, through IIEES, shall provide all the resources needed for the administration and proper functioning of the centre.
2. The Government undertakes to:

- a) make available the necessary space at the existing premises of the IIEES located in Tehran at No. 21, Arghavan St., North Dibajee, Farmanieh, Tehran-IRAN P.O.Box: 19537-14453; and
- b) entirely assume the operation and administration of the centre and all construction and renovation work required for the completion of the centre's physical establishment, as well as the maintenance of its premises; and
- c) financially support the centre through the annual programmes of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology; and
- d) make available to the centre the staff necessary for the performance of its functions, which shall comprise a director, a disaster management expert; a social science expert; an urban resilience expert; and two office staff, necessary for its operation, that would be assigned amongst the personnel of IIEES.

Article 9 – Participation

1. The centre shall encourage the participation of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which, by their common interest in the objectives of the centre, desire to cooperate with the centre.
2. Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO wishing to participate in the centre's activities, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send to the Institute notification to this effect. The director shall inform the parties to the agreement and other Member States of the receipt of such notifications.

Article 10 – Responsibility

As the centre is legally separate from UNESCO, the latter shall not be legally responsible for the acts or omissions of the centre, shall not be subject to any legal process, and shall bear no liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise, with the exception of the provisions expressly laid down in this Agreement.

Article 11 – Evaluation

1. UNESCO may, at any time, carry out an evaluation of the activities of the Centre in order to ascertain:
 - a) whether the Centre makes a significant contribution to the UNESCO's strategic programme objectives and expected results aligned with the four-year programmatic period of C/5 document (Programme and Budget), including the two global priorities of the Organization, and related sectoral or programme priorities and themes;
 - b) whether the activities effectively pursued by the Centre are in conformity with those set out in this Agreement;
2. UNESCO shall, for the purpose of the review of this Agreement, conduct an evaluation of the contribution of the category 2 Centre to UNESCO strategic programme objectives, to be funded by the host country or Centre.
3. UNESCO undertakes to submit to the Government, at the earliest opportunity, a report on any evaluation conducted.
4. Following the results of an evaluation, each of the contracting parties shall have the option of requesting a revision of its contents or of denouncing the Agreement, as envisaged in Articles 15 and 16.

Article 12 – Use of UNESCO name and logo

1. The centre may mention its affiliation with UNESCO. It may therefore use after its title the mention "under the auspices of UNESCO".
2. The centre is authorized to use the UNESCO logo or a version thereof on its letter-headed paper and documents including electronic documents and web pages in accordance with the conditions established by the governing bodies of UNESCO.

Article 13 – Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force, following its signature by the contracting parties, when they have informed each other in writing that all the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by UNESCO's internal regulations have been completed. The date of receipt of the last notification shall be deemed to be the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 14 – Duration

This Agreement is concluded for a period of six years as from its entry into force. - The Agreement shall be renewed upon common agreement between Parties once the Executive Board made its comments based on the results of the renewal assessment provided by the Director-General.

Article 15 – Denunciation

1. Each of the contracting parties shall be entitled to denounce this Agreement unilaterally.
2. The denunciation shall take effect within 30 days following receipt of the notification sent by one of the contracting parties to the other.

Article 16 – Revision

This Agreement may be revised by consent between the Government and UNESCO.

Article 17 – Settlement of disputes

1. Any dispute between UNESCO and the Government concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, if not settled by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the parties, shall be submitted for final decision to an arbitration tribunal composed of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by a representative of the Government, another by the Director-General of UNESCO, and a third, who shall preside over the tribunal, shall be chosen by the first two. If the two arbitrators cannot agree on the choice of a third, the President of the International Court of Justice shall make the appointment.
2. The Tribunal's decision shall be final.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Agreement,

DONE in six copies in the English, on [...]

.....
For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

.....
For the Government of the Islamic
Republic of Iran

ANNEX II

CONSIDERATION ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE AND RELATION WITH UNESCO AND ITS OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMMES

I. Consideration on the Feasibility of the Proposed Centre

Objectives and functions of the proposed category 2 centre

1. Since its establishment in November 1989, following the suggestion of the 24th UNESCO General Conference and approval of the Iranian government "Council of Higher Education Development", IIEES, the host institution of the centre, has been putting significant efforts into disaster risk reduction. Its strategic programme priority is protection of human lives, technological systems and other property, as well as reduction of physical and economic damage to the socio-economic systems against earthquakes. All the activities are in the domain of mitigation, preparedness and readiness, providing a consistent legislation, professional human resources and other capacity for sustainable development. Its cooperation with the Government and its agencies for crisis management, with international academic and scientific communities and organizations, along with the media, highly contributes to building a culture of resilience.
2. The main mission of the proposed centre will be to assist countries located in West and Central Asia in earthquake risk reduction and management and in developing appropriate methodologies to make them resilient to potential earthquakes based on physical, socio-economic and cultural characteristics. The proposed centre will act as a regional platform for research and training on disaster preparedness and mitigation resources. The main emphasis of the centre's work would be to conduct research, offer professional training, provide policy advice, facilitate technology transfer and promote regional cooperation and exchange of experience. The following summarizes the objectives and overall scope of activities to be undertaken by the proposed centre:
 - i. To assist governments to develop integrated earthquake risk reduction master plans at regional, national and local levels as well as roadmaps to make these countries resilient to earthquakes by 2030 in line with Sendai Framework for DRR;
 - ii. To develop local expertise;
 - iii. To strengthen national and regional capacities and capabilities in earthquake risk management by providing common services and facilities;
 - iv. To ensure harmonized and reinforced involvement of the Member States in implementing joint projects and training activities, such as implementing joint earthquake drills;
 - v. To assist governments to identify national and regional priorities on DRR and responding their relevant requirements;
 - vi. To make necessary integrity with local and international sponsors to support DRR projects in the region;
 - vii. To organize DRR training and educational courses to promote public awareness as well as professional knowledge in the region.
3. The proposed centre objectives and functions would be realized by the highly qualified and educated human resources and with up to date research infrastructure already existed at the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, IIEES.

Name of the centre

4. The name of the category 2 centre will be as follows: Regional Education and Research Center on Earthquake Risk Management and Resilience for West and Central Asia at the

International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, IIEES, Tehran, Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

Existing Legal status

5. The proposed centre will be host by the public scientific International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, IIEES, which was established in November 1989 following the suggestion of the 24th UNESCO General Conference and approved by the Iranian government "Council of Higher Education Development". In 1999 at the 408th meeting of "Council of Higher Education Development", IIEES, the host of the proposed centre, was approved as a "Research Center".
6. The proposed centre at the IIEES shall be independent of UNESCO. The proposed centre at the IIEES would enjoy, within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity: (1) to contract; (2) to institute legal procedures; (3) to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property; (4) to receive subventions; (5) to obtain payments for services rendered; and (6) to acquire all necessary means to carry out its functions.

Governing Board

7. The proposed centre at the IIEES shall be guided and overseen by a Governing Board. The Governing Board shall meet at ordinary sessions at regular intervals at least once a year. The Governing Board will be renewed every five [5] years and comprise:
 - i. a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;
 - ii. a representative of UNESCO Tehran Office;
 - iii. a representative of Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology;
 - iv. the President of the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES);
 - v. and five distinguished experts on earthquake risk reduction and management of Iran to be proposed by IIEES.
8. The decisions of the Governing Board will be enacted based on approval of 50%+1 votes of the members.
9. The main functions of the Governing Board shall be to:
 - i. Approve the long-term and medium-term programs of the Centre;
 - ii. Approve the annual work plan of the Centre;
 - iii. Examine the annual reports submitted by the director of the Centre, including a biennial self-assessment reports of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's program objectives;
 - iv. Examine the technical challenges and financial statements of the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country and IIEES mandate;
 - v. Decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and International organizations in the work of the Centre.
10. The other governance organization forms under the Governing Board will be established in accordance with the national legislation.
11. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has confirmed to UNESCO that it will take the necessary measures that are required for the establishment of the proposed centre at the IIEES as an UNESCO category 2 centre such as the adaptation of the IIEES' legal status.

Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO

II. Relation with UNESCO and its objectives and programmes

Areas of cooperation with UNESCO

12. The centre will cooperate with UNESCO in developing activities in the area of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience, education and research for DRR, and contributing to UNESCO's actions towards building national, regional and international DRR.

Relation to UNESCO's objectives and programmes

13. The proposed centre will assist UNESCO in implementation of the two following UNESCO strategic programme objectives:

SO 4: Promoting the interface between science, policy and society and ethical and inclusive policies for sustainable development.

SO 5: Strengthening international science cooperation for peace, sustainability and social inclusion.

14. Special emphasis is put in the implementation of several programme objectives, in particular those within the framework of Major programme II, Natural Sciences and Strategic objective 5: Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development.
15. The proposed centre will also contribute to UNESCO's efforts on promote the generation and sharing of knowledge in relation to natural resources, and capacity development through international scientific collaboration for the protection and sustainable management of the earth's geological resources. Implementation will include, inter alia, the coordination of monitoring activities, the production of scientific assessments, catalysing international collaborative projects, capacity development, and the designation of site-specific examples of sustainable development. The promotion of disaster risk reduction related to natural hazards will be pursued, in particular through developing capacity in earthquake risk mitigation, preparedness, response and recover as well as resilience.
16. The objectives of the proposed centre are fully consistent with UNESCO's efforts to attain quality education for all through capacity building and education in the basic and applied sciences – to fill a gap in education and training in earthquake risk reduction and management.
17. At the same time, the proposed centre will support UNESCO's efforts on addressing specific challenges such as the impact of natural hazards and sustainable development. The proposed centre activities' will also support UNESCO on reaching SDGs 11 (cities), and 15 (biodiversity). Additionally, the proposed centre portfolio aligns with science for disaster risk reduction (DRR).
18. The proposed centre will support UNESCO on its global efforts leading for a better understanding of earthquake phenomena in order to address some of the most important challenges facing earthquake-prone countries today. From addressing earthquake risk mitigation to the need for a better management of its socio-economic consequences.
19. It is expected that the proposed centre would closely find synergies with the work of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) in order to support scientific cooperation in earth sciences concerning earthquakes, the structure of earth and disaster risk reduction.

20. The proposed centre would act as a platform for research, education and training activities, exchange of knowledge and best practices among various academic and educational institutions in the field of earthquake risk management. It would serve as a high-level centre for disaster preparedness and mitigation fully consonant with UNESCO's priorities for contribution to disaster resilience through scientific knowledge, education, information and public awareness.
21. The proposed centre will also support UNESCO's work on disaster risk reduction. The proposed centre due to its multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach, would provide recommendations to support Member States in enhancing their knowledge on both technical and policy aspects. This would include the promotion of risk assessment and disaster reduction measures; advocacy on built environment safety from both seismic engineering and cultural points of view; and strengthening resilience of UNESCO-designated sites and capacity for responding to natural hazards using ICTs. All activities will align with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and support Member States in the implementation of targets under SDGs 1, 4, 9, 11, 13 and 15.
22. The proposed centre would contribute in the implementation of UNESCO strategic programme objectives in synergy with other UNESCO international programmes and platforms, such as the International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disaster (UNESCO-IPRED), the Reducing Earthquake Losses in the Extended Mediterranean Region (RELEMR) programme, the Reducing Earthquake Losses in the North Asian Region (RELNAR) programme, the Reducing Earthquake Losses in the Central Asian Region (RELCAR) programme, and the Reducing Earthquake Losses in the South Asian Region (RELSAR) programme.

International and regional impact of the institute

23. The proposed centre will act as a regional platform for research and training on disaster preparedness and mitigation resources. The centre will cooperate with universities, research institutes and government agencies working in the field of disaster risk reduction and resilience at national, regional and International level. In this regard, the centre will continue establishing appropriate collaborative arrangements with the regional and international institutes involved in disaster risk reduction research and development.