



**Regional Seminar on Drought Mitigation
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
28-29 August 2001**



**United Nations Development Programme
in the Islamic Republic of Iran
Tehran, 2002**

**Published by the United Nations Development Programme
In the Islamic Republic of Iran.**

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Foreword

Drought and its effects do not respect geo-political boundaries. In this region, the severity and frequency of drought has highlighted the need for a practical and sustainable approach to mitigation that goes beyond national borders. Prevention, preparedness and mitigation of natural disasters comprise essential components within UNDP's development priorities. Realizing that dialogue among the countries involved is crucial to a regional approach on drought management, UNDP-Iran convened the first ever Regional Seminar on Drought Mitigation.

The seminar, held in Tehran from 28-29 August 2001, brought together senior government officials from six Central and Western Asian countries, as well as representatives from UN agencies, donor countries and local and international NGOs. Participants exchanged experiences, discussed national policies and laid the foundation for a regional strategy on drought mitigation and prevention. Spurred by the success of the seminar, UNDP is taking steps to establish in Tehran a Regional Centre for Natural Disaster Risk Management.

The seminar would not have been possible without support from the Iranian government. My thanks go to Mr. Seyed Abbas Jazayeri, Director General of the Iranian Interior Ministry's Disaster Task Force, Mr. Omar Bakhet, former Director of UNDP's Emergency Responses Division, Ambassador Bozorgmehr Ziaran of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their colleagues for their support to the seminar. I would also like to express sincere thanks to the participating countries, NGOs, UN agencies and donors for their support and commitment to this event.

The proceedings of the seminar were widely distributed after the event. They are also posted on the Reliefweb. UNDP-Iran is now pleased to issue them in its Technical Papers Series.

Francesco M. Bastagli
UNDP Resident Representative

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