

**Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**On the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the**  
**Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Before the 25th Session of Human Rights Council**

**(Geneva, 17 March 2014)**

*In the name of God, the Compassionate the Merciful*

**Mr. President,**

We are meeting in a critical time when the people of the world are experiencing enormous sufferings as a result of inaction and/or unilateral measures which are in clear defiance of the basic principles of international law. Regrettably, this approach continues to overshadow our common responsibility to work towards the realization of the principles and purpose of the United Nations. Against this background, the Human Rights Council has a special responsibility to pave the way, in a holistic manner, for the better promotion and protection of human rights across the globe.

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains legally bound to implement its international obligations. We are firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights at national and international levels and seek constructive engagement and cooperation with all relevant UN human rights mechanisms, provided that they are purely professional and free from political bias. Our commitment toward the protection and promotion of human rights is intrinsic, genuine and deeply rooted in our beliefs and values. This commitment is intertwined with our hopes for a brighter, happier and a more prosperous future and our desire to work for the betterment of our own citizens.

**Mr President,**

The Report before us today and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur are not the product of a healthy, objective and productive exercise. Rather, they challenge the credibility and legitimacy of the UN system and its human rights machinery which have been established to ensure respect for universal noble values of human rights, as the common heritage of humankind, and to better enrich the dialogue among different cultures and civilizations, so as to leave no space for the introduction of self-defined values.

While in the Report we notice a few references to the positive steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran; however to a large extent, it is a compilation of unfounded allegations. It also does not appropriately address Iran's enormous advancements -- specially

its distinctive democratic nature. Additionally, the Report's analysis and comments on the country's new post presidential election climate is very superficial. The Report has also chosen to pay no attention to Iran's significant achievements in different fields. It ignores the fact that, in Iran, women are highly educated and present in all walks of the society's life. It also has not paid sufficient notice to Iran's legal system and Islamic culture and considers whatever exists in the West as an international standard for the rest of the world.

Like his previous reports, the Rapporteur has made inaccurate judgments about the rule of law in the Country, which shows that he has neither a proper knowledge about the process of enactment of laws, nor a comprehensive understanding of the workings and organizational structure of the Judiciary. Furthermore, the Rapporteur' visit to a few European countries to collect information on the situation of human rights in Iran is not the correct methodology for the compilation of the Report.

In this regard, inclusion of generalities and broad statistics in the Report's introduction and body is contrary to article 6 of the Code of Conduct for the mandate holders of the Human Rights Council; which require the establishment of facts on the basis of objective and reliable information.

**Mr President,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran unwaveringly believes in constructive cooperation with all relevant international bodies -- within their mandates -- and to that end, it has continuously reported to related committees of international human rights conventions. To further cooperate with the UN human rights apparatus, the Islamic Republic of Iran has responded to communications from the Special Rapporteur and organized meetings for him in our Missions in New York and Geneva and despite our strong opposition to the unjustified HRC Resolution which led to the establishment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, we have always expressed our readiness to provide all necessary information to the Office of High Commissioner. In this context, we have submitted our comments and observations on the present report -- in accurate and comprehensive description, and in due time -- fully expecting them to be considered. However, in defiance to the requirements stipulated in the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures, the Rapporteur has paid slight attention to Iranian comments. Therefore, this report falls short of the minimum standards of fairness and impartiality.

**Mr. President,**

For centuries, the dynamic Iranian society has been admired as a successful example of peaceful ethnic and religious co-existence. The protection and enhancement of this situation has been among the main national policies of the Government and identified by Iranian Constitution. The participation of all Iranian ethnic groups and their representation in all political, electoral, local and national decision making activities, clearly indicates that the allegations contained in the Report are unfounded.

On the important subject of sanctions, nowhere in the present and previous reports has the Rapporteur mentioned the need for action by international community and relevant UN mechanisms to lift the anti-human rights sanctions and unilateral coercive measures.

On capital punishment, we have, time and again, announced that capital punishment is restricted to the most serious crimes. Therefore, capital punishment is exclusively limited to those who commit murder, terrorist crimes and serious drug related crimes such as armed smuggling of narcotics, assassination, and kidnapping. The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to fight against impunity and in line with its international commitments, makes every effort to ensure that its activities contribute to the realization of justice. Against this backdrop and the high financial and human costs we incur every day, it is unfortunate that certain corners in this room are now questioning our sincere efforts. Needless to say, this approach will only embolden perpetrators to continue committing serious crimes and be sure of safe harbour.

In response to its national and international obligations and to help bolster domestic and regional peace and security, the Islamic Republic of Iran is also determined to continue the fight against the evil phenomena of terrorism and extremism. To this end and most recently during the 68<sup>th</sup> UNGA our President, Dr. Rohani, introduced the notion of "a World Against Violence and Extremism (WAVE)". Happily the concept was embraced by member States who overwhelmingly endorsed to help it become a consensual UN Resolution. It is regretful that the Rapporteur has chosen to ignore the sincere efforts of my country to fight terrorism in its various shapes and forms and by applying human rights labels protect and draw attention to those who have committed terrorist acts.

**Mr. President,**

The 11<sup>th</sup> presidential election in Iran, held in an open, free, transparent and democratic progression, signifies a robust and bright manifestation of a democracy which is consistent with international norms and standards and rooted in the well-founded credence of the Iranian people. The new Government will make every effort to improve our practice of a democracy that is based on Islamic rationality and values. In this context, we maintain that an impartial, balanced and non-political approach based on constructive dialogue and cooperation is needed to acknowledge the positive human rights developments in the Country -- which has been facing numerous serious challenges such as, terrorism, drug trafficking, unjustified sanctions and regional conflicts and extremism.

In conclusion, we underscore the necessity for the international community to seize the momentum created by the new democratically elected government to positively and constructively engage with my country in dialogue for the promotion and protection of all human rights and help bring about an enabling environment that is conducive to the betterment of our people.

I thank you.

