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Statement by

Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Agenda item 28: Advancement of women

Third Committee of the 65th Session of the UNGA

New York, 11 October 2010

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Advancement of the status of the Iranian Women in the society under the national strategic policies and programs on the economic, social and cultural development has been significant in recent years. Benefiting from the religious teachings and observing the principles of moderation and strengthening the family, the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided a favourable situation without any legal impediments for women's promotion.

Women both at governmental and non-governmental levels have so far achieved considerable success. They, while utilizing the potentials of the Government, the Parliament, the Judiciary,

City Councils, Municipal Councils, and etc have managed to gain out-standing achievements in issues related to women.

The latest statistics indicates 14/53 percent growth in women's employment. The literacy rate has been elevated to 80/34 percent.

The number of women who have been enrolled in the higher education institutions increased to 68 percent which is 27 folds more than the number of entrees 32 years ago. Furthermore women presently assume 30 percent of professorship of universities.

In the health sector, figures indicate that the number of women GPs has gained outstanding growths and women constitute 40 percent of specialist physicians as well as 98 percent of gynaecologist. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also succeeded in reducing maternal mortality rates sooner than the deadline set by the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

My country also has established a national HIV treatment system, including 150 testing sites and a free needle exchange program, earning international acknowledgment.

In the political arena, the number of women in different decision making and managerial posts as ministers, deputy ministers, advisors to the president and etc has increased to an outstanding level.

There are 528 women judges, their presence rate in city as well as village council indicate 80 percent increase which presently has enabled more than 2334 women as village council members to have effective role in the decision making process.

Other notable figures are the number of NGOs active in women's rights, publishing, art, sport, film production, athletics and scientific Olympiads.

In parallel to aforesaid achievements, the "Charter for women's rights and responsibilities" based on three pillars of spirituality, justice and security, within the framework of religion and national principles has been codified.

A number of outstanding achievements have also been gained in the legislation, especially relevant to the women's rights and family issues, such as the right to custody of children, filing for divorce, equality in obtaining blood money from the insurance companies and getting movable inheritances. Due to the importance that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to the human dignity, in order to prevent the human trafficking, specifically trafficking in women and girls a law for combating this crime was adopted in the year 2004, according to which any violations, be it for forcing women to prostitution, slavery or forced marriage would be punished.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that “gender justice” is the deciding factor in achieving sustainable development, which has been incorporated in the highest levels of decision making process.

Based on the Islamic values and teachings, there should be a just attitude towards women’s rights and freedom, and their biological and emotional differences should be taken into consideration. Equality fails to recognize the natural differences between men and women, therefore disregards the cultural diversity of today’s world.

As the basic unit yet most important in the society, the family has a special place. Our development programs seek to strengthen this unit of the society by supporting women empowerment within families.

Finally, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the latest economic crisis that hit the world was a direct result of worldwide political injustice. Amendments within the global economic system, with regards to justice for all and morality instead of profit can make a difference to the crippled global economy.

Thank you.