

# Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**Statement by H. E. Mr. Eshagh Al-Habib**  
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On the Agenda Item 28: The Advancement of Women

Third Committee  
Sixty-sixth Session of the United Nations of General Assembly  
11<sup>th</sup> October 2011  
New York

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

**Mr. Chairman,**

The promotion of women's dignity and their empowerment constitute prerequisites for a society's progress. Consideration of the agenda item on the advancement of women provides us with an opportunity to exchange views on the progress, challenges and good practices for the empowerment of women at the national, regional and international levels.

Our purpose is served best when the intergovernmental work of this Committee focuses on the wide spectrum of challenges that affect both developing and developed countries.

Establishment of the UN entity for women could create a vehicle for change in strategies and implementation of women issues. The UN-Women could only become efficient and universal when national approach and strategies of the entity are based upon recognizing and respecting the religious, national and cultural diversities of different nations and societies.

The new entity should not follow a ready - made conception, model and conceptual pattern of analysis. It should reach a cross - cutting and overall consensus in preparing strategies, plans and programs. For these reason, we expect the UN-Women to review the previous trends with a view to identify the highs and lows of the long journey which has been started from 60 years ago.

While there are a number of structural functions that must be done in the new Entity, still, there are core elements for effective functioning. Along with developing comprehensive human resources and management framework, the UN-Women must develop new parameters for inclusion of equitable geographical distribution and technical expertise in the work and composition of the Office.

Moreover, an essential dimension of the UN-Women work must be the mobilization of necessary and additional resources through the regular budget of the United Nations. This will tangibly ensure transparency and impartiality in the work of the new body for the empowerment of women.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Last December, the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted the Third Ministerial Conference of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC member states, in Tehran. The Conference aimed to promote the role of women in the family as well as to strengthen their role in economic development of the Islamic societies.

The conference, underscored, inter alia, that the advancement of women and the promotion of their role within the family and society is a major factor for the development and highlighted the importance of the involvement of women in inter-religious dialogue. It also invited OIC Member States to enhance the status of women based on shared knowledge and best practices as well as on sound mobilization of resources.

Furthermore, the conference adopted the mechanism for the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women. Article 27 of the Tehran Declaration recommends the OIC Member States work together on establishing a road map with a view to helping initiate a universal movement seeking to revive rights of human beings, in particular women. It also recognizes that this important measure requires cooperation and consultation among the elite and thinkers from all countries.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We took note of the informative report of the Secretary General contained in document A/66/211, on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of twenty third special session of the General Assembly with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices. The present report highlights the current trends towards mainstreaming a gender issues in the functioning and documents of the different bodies of the United Nations system. Based on the report, there has been particular progress in some areas such as the Secretary-General's reports; but the progress has been more limited within the United Nations system.

**Mr. Chairman**

In today's world, rural women has critical role in poverty reduction, food security and environmental sustainability. However, rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged throughout the world, due to their limited access to economic resources and opportunities.

The forthcoming session of the CSW and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Brazil in 2012 provide an opportunity to review and appraise progress achieved and problems encountered by the rural women in different spheres and pave the way for the acceleration of progress on the empowerment of women in rural area.

**Mr. Chairman**

Elimination of violence against women, in all its forms, in all parts of the world is a priority. However, situation of women living under foreign occupation as one of the critical areas of violence still falls short of enough notice which requires particular attention.

In this context, what matters most is the so-called holistic approach, and that a cross sectional outlook in combating violence against women must be understood and analyzed in a holistic manner. It must surpass the existing virtually stereotypical pattern of analysis and create a vertical and horizontal conceptual change. Vertical approach means to consider all situations with their entire dimension, national, regional and international. Horizontal approach means to consider roots and causes of violence in all its forms.

Unless and until the ways of analysis and means of action in combating violence against women is developed in this fashion, the current efforts, though intensive, will not yield expected fruits.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken many initiatives, such as identifying women issues as a priority or cross-cutting issue that is mainstreamed across all sectors in all stages of the policy process. Beyond awareness-raising, capacity-building and training activities, concerted efforts are underway for the effective incorporation of gender perspectives into national development policies and strategies.

Developing capacity and expertise in all ministries as well as in national mechanisms for empowerment of women, strengthening accountability, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, ensuring sufficient human and financial resources and promoting the participation of civil society in the national development planning process are pursued.

Gender responsive budgeting has been developed as an effective tool to ensure that adequate resources are allocated for the achievement of women empowerment. Furthermore, gender sensitive indicators have been developed to support policymaking and national systems for monitoring and reporting on progress and impacts.

The Presidential Center for Women and Family with the intervention of mechanisms and sections at different levels integrate a gender perspective into the design and implementation of national development strategies, which are typically multi - year documents outlining national priorities for development; including poverty reduction strategies, country coordination mechanisms and sector plans.

Recently, in implementing Article 230 of the National Five-Year Development Plan, the Center for Women and Family with the participation of all ministries and organizations are formulating a comprehensive national development program on women and family. Strengthening of the family foundation; review of the laws and regulations; prevention of social damages; economic development; creating jobs for women head of house hold, social security; empowerment of civil society, and the reform of women machineries are among the key elements of the program.

The indexes related to women have grown considerably in the areas of education and research, science and technology, as well as justice and health. It is noteworthy to mention that the main approach of Iran's development policy focuses on supporting the family and its strengthening. In our view, the strengthening of the family is prerequisite for the empowerment of women.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, allow me to share some other significant achievements on the parts of the Islamic Republic of Iran efforts in realizing the empowerment of women:

- As part of a national policy planning, the National Elite Foundation has been established to assist the scientist including women in the research and technology sectors.
- The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran has appointed an Iranian competent woman as his deputy for science and technology.
- The considerable growth in the rate of health indexes and the decline in the mortality and morbidity rate and curbing HIV / AIDS have been registered.
- The rate of women's participation at senior level decision-making and managerial levels has increased. As currently four women have been appointed as members of the Cabinet. There are also a number of women serving as deputy ministers.

**Thank You, Mr. Chairman**

