

Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**Statement by
Mrs. Forouzandeh Vadiati
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
before the Third Committee of the 67 Session of the GA
On Agenda item 28 :
A) Advancement of women &
b) implementation of the outcome of the fourth world conferences on women
and of the twenty third special session of the General Assembly
New York, 16 October 2012**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Mr. Chairman,

Since 1995, the Beijing Process has set the foundations of a new cycle of international struggles in regard to the issue of "women". Today's world bears witness the daily emergence of new changes which profoundly impacts on the empowerment of women. These new developments signify the important role of this Committee in identifying and examining the new challenges faced by men and women of our era such as the impact of the economic crisis, foreign military intervention and occupation, targeted unilateral economic sanctions against independent nations, constantly threatening of other nations to military aggression, as well as lack of global justice and spirituality.

Mr. Chairman,

The recognition of the important role of the family institution is certainly imperative for the promoting dignity of women and the realization of their empowerment in a society. It is from this vantage point that my delegation believes that in defining the principles and objectives of the UN-Women on the empowerment of women, the priorities must be placed on a family based approach and respect for the divine values; there should also be special attention to the national, cultural and religious particularities of each and every nations, as they are unique legacies of humanity.

To this vein, and to strengthen and consolidate the valuable institution of family, based on Article 10 of the Iranian Constitution, the High Level National Headquarter of the Family has been established under the supervision of the President and membership of eight Ministers.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran recently hosted the 16 Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement entitled *Lasting Peace through Joint Global Governance*. Through the Final Document of the Summit, the Heads of State and Government reiterated the commitment of the Movement to the implementation of outcome document of the Fourth World Conference on Women and its five - years review. The Summit also expressed its resolve to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girl child especially in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation.

The Summit furthermore underscored the validity and relevance of the Movement's principle positions concerning the institutional reform of the UN and stressed that the purpose of the reform, including on the issue of gender, is to make the UN development system more efficient and effective in the support of the developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, on the basis of their national development strategies.

Likewise, the Summit recognized the central and coordinating role of the UN Women in cooperation with other relevant UN entities to promote gender equality and empowerment of women within the UN system. The Summit reiterated the request to the Executive Director of UN Women to pay special attention to the situation of women living under foreign occupation and their suffering by, inter alia, appointing a focal point to address their situations in full conformity with the international law including international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation takes note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children transmitted by the Secretary General contained in document A/ 67/261, we are of the view that the States' obligations to prevent and combat human trafficking remains as a fundamental starting point. Today, the persistence, growth and prevalence of trafficking in women and girls in north west hemisphere have raised serious concerns for all nations. In this regard, we encourage countries of the main destination of trafficking in person, to step up their efforts in order to combat and prevent trafficking and to provide victims with protection.

In our point of view, preventive approach should be recognized as a core component of any strategy for putting an end to the violence against women. In order to address this, the Islamic Republic of Iran has stepped up its efforts focusing on strengthening national legal and policy framework as well as awareness raising and advocacy, through increasingly engaging with a wide range of actors. Accordingly, a task force is established under the supervision of Center for Women and Family and Judiciary Branch, which is mandated to evaluate the drafting of a new bill against domestic violence.