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Statement by

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on the Report of the Special Rapporteur

on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran

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

Today the Council is considering two reports on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. One of them is submitted by the United Nations Secretary General and the other prepared by the Council's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in my country.

Before commenting on the nature and contents of those reports, I would like to pass on to this august body the greeting and deliver the message of the Iranian people that held another all-embracing and democratic parliamentary election on March 2, 2012. Through an unprecedented election that amounted to 64.2PCT participation rate, the great nation of Iran once again pledged their allegiance to sublime goals of their democratic revolutions and their unwavering commitments for establishing a paragon of justice, freedom based lofty Islamic values. The strong and dynamic parliamentary system, where all peoples of Iran, of all creed and color, faith and ethnic backgrounds are duly represented, serves as a bastion for the protection their lofty aspirations for freedom, independence and rule of the law and the good governance. Among other mandates, our parliament always keeps a vigilante eye on the fulfillment of our national obligations toward due implementation of different international instruments, particularly those pertaining the promotion and protection of human rights.

Madame President

Allow me also to recall that Iran has been so genuinely and constructively engaged in the formation of the Human Rights Council and therefore feels a profound ownership towards it. The forum as we once envisaged it was supposed to be a platform for constructive dialogue and fruitful cooperation and indiscriminate and apolitical promotion of human rights around the world. Different mechanisms of the council including its special procedures were also provided to prepare the ground for meaningful engagement and fair and frank collaboration toward realization of universal human rights. It also meant to fully utilize the capacities of all parties to the charter and ensure their unbiased and indiscriminate global partnership for the promotion of human rights. Unless such an enabling environment and a fair level field for all are genuinely provided, chances for fulfillment of the lofty aspirations of the Council for the promotion and protection of human rights will go into the air.

In pursuing our lofty dreams for a world where the principles and fundamental of human rights shall indiscriminately prevail, however, we seemingly have to grapple, among other things, with two major challenges that tend to far adversely affect common sublime cause. The first one is intentional resorting to the human right charter as an instrument to seek our unjustified and ill- intentioned political ends versus selected member states with whom one is at odds, and the second one is to falsely regard the instrument as a panacea and a one- size -fit- all solution and then strive to juxtapose it to all nations of the world irrespective of their diversified cultures, history, social and economic backgrounds and their level of development. To many member states, social, ethical and religious values are like skin to the body rather than a piece of cloth to be changed. Prescription and imposition of recipe of tolerance in the face of malicious sacrilege against the holy scriptures of Moslems and defamation of their Prophet (PBUH) under the disguise of freedom of expression advocated by human rights is a blatant example of such disregard. The intentional spread of Islam phobia and excessive hatred against certain nations, are another examples indicating that even human rights standards may at times be intentionally overlooked to help seeking unjustified political ends. On the top of the above our world today is also replete with dual treatment versus violation of fundamental human right standards. It seems that certain states have carte blanche in trampling over any human rights charter, in any given corner of the world extending from Guantanamo Island to mountains of Torabora.

I-By constructively engaging in human right processes both at national, regional and international levels, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly manifested its unwavering commitment toward the advancement of human rights. We, therefore tend to regard human right instrument as an instrumental guideline that may synergize with our rather rich Persia - Islam cultural and religious melange, rooted in one of

most reputable civilization of the ancient world incidentally known as the torch bearer and guardian of the human rights. We are proud to be the forerunner of the human rights campaign in the history and to be its adamant guardian under the sublime teachings of the savior of the slaves, protector of the oppressed and defender of the innocent women, prophet of Islam Mohammad (PBUH).

In respect of our relations with the Human Rights Council and for the sake of record, let it not pass in oblivion that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has already warmly received 6 thematic special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. By submission of the present report to the draft of the Special Rapporteur, as well as its full and frank collaboration during its universal periodic review, Iran has clearly demonstrated its will and commitment in constructively engaging with the Council to ensure the proper protection of the fundamental rights of its nationals.

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has worked wholeheartedly to realize the rights of the *people* and to create a prosperous society based on justice, equality, legitimate freedoms, and partnership, social and economic development. A quick glance at the recent periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran on International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights may easily reflect the great achievements of the Iranian people and government in different spheres of life. A portion of these achievements, particularly in the promotion of civil liberties and human rights was legitimately expected to be reflected in the reports of the Secretary General and the Special Rapporteur.

2- Self-monitoring is a key principle in Iranian system of governance. In the Islamic Republic of Iran the government belongs to the people and is responsive to their wills. Therefore different monitoring mechanisms have been devised to guarantee the correct functioning of the governmental and judicial sections. It helps us to have an efficient self-correcting mechanism.

3- The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken due notice of the comments and observations made by the distinguished Special Rapporteur on the review of the Situation of Human Rights in Iran. As it has been repeatedly echoed as the stance of Iran in any pertinent situation, the governance of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to constructively engage in transparent and mutually beneficial relations with the Human Rights Council and genuinely consider any grounds of help and cooperation in letting the former fulfill its mandate.

While acknowledging personal character, communicative skills and diplomatic acumen of the Special Rapporteur, we are of the conviction that the process leading to

his appointment has been the result of a faulty and non-inclusive trend characterized by diplomatic manipulations and ambiguous interventions triggered by certain western countries and their cronies in the Council. The submitted report, in which we had placed some initial hopes, in the meantime amounted to nothing more than the repetition of a barrage of unsubstantiated and biased contentions traditionally levied against the governance of Iran. In view of the above development, we regretfully consider the appointment of the Special Rapporteur as not a measure that may strengthen the status of the Human Right Council as an impartial and apolitical international organization, rather a measure that served but to weaken the stature of the former and its procedure for the appointment of Special Rapporteur before the free conscience of the world and particularly the peoples of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We continue to believe that adoption of the GA resolution A/RES/66/175 as well as the Human Rights Council resolution 16.9 were unfortunate manipulation of the UN human rights system, and their content including the requested reports is absolutely unjustified and unwarranted.

In respect of the role of the Special Rapporteur as an inquisitor on numerous unrelated issues, we are of the conviction that he has seemingly infringed on the mandate entrusted upon to him. He has obviously failed to abide by the provisions of Article 13 of the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate holders of the Human Rights Council that underscore the importance of integrity, independence and impartiality which his status requires for the promotion and protection of human rights. His apparent aberration from decorum also gives us substance to believe that in performing its function and submission of the letter of allegation, the Special Rapporteur has failed to assess his conformity with the Code of Conduct and has repeatedly trampled upon other criteria of the respective Code namely paragraphs 1 sub paragraph (a) and (c). The communication of the Special Rapporteur, as we see it, seems manifestly unfounded and politically motivated and the selected choice of epithets has rendered it to abusive communication.

4- Despite our strong opposition to the above said resolutions and the garbled reports of the Special Rapporteur, we expressed our readiness to provide all the necessary information to the Office of High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur to prepare impartial, factual, substantiated and well documented reports.

5. To our great dismay, we came to realize that the reports fail to reflect the actual situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; rather they resemble a catalogue of poorly resourced information and allegations. The report is generously biased, impartial, politicized and selective in its approach toward the developments of human rights in my country.

6- A cursory review of the Country Rapporteur's activities, from the time of his appointment to the present day, regretfully provides a rather disappointing picture of his performance on the question of human rights in Iran. Time and again, he availed himself of every opportunity to campaign against in Iran and inspire of his obligation arising from the code of conduct, released vitriolic and diatribe statement that served to tarnish the reputation of a member party to the Council.

The Rapporteur has practically engaged in propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his report, instead of referring to credible and official sources and mentioning human rights trends and models in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Special Rapporteur has chosen to ignore the principle of fairness and by quoting unofficial and suspect sources, has included details that are mostly false and distorted. Although the Rapporteur presents himself as committed to constructive interaction with the Islamic Republic of Iran and despite meeting with a number of officials and representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran's civil society, he has made no constructive reference to their contentions. Conversely, meetings with certain groups including one specific terrorist group have been extensively mentioned in the report and their spurious claims have been without further investigation portrayed as the truth.

Madame President;

The commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to protect and promote human rights is inherent, genuine and deeply rooted in our beliefs and values. It is intertwined with the nation's hopes for a brighter, happier, more prosperous and saner future.

- The Islamic Republic of Iran is based, on one hand, on principles of independence, freedom, and progressive Islamic beliefs, and on the other hand, on the principles of democracy and the direct and indirect oversight of people over all core organs of the government.
- The High Council for Human Rights of Islamic Republic of Iran started its consistent activities as a semi-national institution, a decade ago. It is amongst the duties of this High Council to investigate and monitor the claims of violations of human rights of Iranian citizens in and out of Iran and to offer practical solutions in accordance with the laws of the country.
- The human rights committee of the Parliament (*Majlis*) has been created to deal with national and international aspects of human rights.
- 12 legislations on Human Rights have been recently adopted.
- The new penal code of the country which was adopted recently has had a close attention to human rights requirements.

- In Iran thousands of NGOs around the country are playing a vital role in promoting human rights and providing consultation to governmental bodies in all aspects of economic, political and social development.
- The free flow of information via media and press and the environment characterized by conflicting and challenging views is quite visible in the political and cultural atmosphere of Iran.
- To this date, hundreds of organizations, institutions and parties have been registered at the Ministry of Interior.
- Public meetings and demonstrations may be freely held, provided arms are not carried and those are not detrimental to the fundamental principles of national security. More than 5,000 public demonstrations, marches and assemblies are held annually in Iran.
- Iran is a land with diverse ethnic and religious communities that live side by side with different traditions, customs and languages. The Iranian society is a successful model of brotherly and peaceful coexistence.
- Iran has carried out unremitting and targeted efforts to promote the status of women in educational, political and cultural endeavors over the past 30 years. Over the recent years important advances have been made in legislations relating to the rights of women and family.
- In the Twenty-Year Vision strategic plan for the development of the nation, matters relating to economic affairs, generation of employment and reducing unemployment rate are underlined as the primary goals of economic development. Special attention is paid in this document to the elimination of discrimination and creation of employment for the vulnerable segments of the population, such as women and minorities.

Finally Madame President, I would like to emphasize the fact that regardless of the current unhealthy trend against our country, Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its efforts to promote and protect human rights. We express our resolve to utilize all national capacities to safeguard and promote the rights of people in all aspects and to rely on the wills and resolve of our people to move steadfastly toward progress and prosperity.
