

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani,  
Secretary General of the High Council for  
Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group of UPR**

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

**Mr. President,  
Honorable Delegations,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honor for me to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group to present the report of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the recommendations made during the first review cycle in 2010. The Islamic Republic of Iran greatly values the UPR mechanism as a cooperative mechanism which considers human rights situations of all the UN member states on equal footing, avoiding selectivity and discrimination.

As a state party to the International Bill of Rights and the core human rights treaties, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to fully participate in the international deliberations and activities for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Iran furthermore maintains that achieving sublime goals of human rights requires mutual respect for different values, traditions and cultures as well as refraining from imposing views and values on others. To promote such lofty goals and aspirations, Iran has chosen to extend full cooperation to the UPR mechanism.

The national report of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is before you today, describes activities carried out by my country since the first review cycle. In preparing

the report, several ministries, relevant commissions of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (the parliament) and the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been actively involved. Furthermore, representatives of civil society have been thoroughly consulted, and their comments received due consideration in the process of drafting this report. High ranking representatives from all sectors of the Government are present in my delegation who will be delivering their statements in the course of our meeting.

We have also taken note of questions forwarded to us in advance. My delegation will do its best to address all these questions and constructive recommendations that distinguished members and observers of the Council may put to us.

**Mr. President,**

Within the 4-year time span since the submission of our first periodic review report, the Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly worked toward further promotion and protection of human rights, inter alia, through implementing UPR recommendations. Toward that end, we have promulgated major policies, adopted new laws and regulations and set up new mechanisms, which have been referred to in detail in our national report.

In the field of human rights education and capacity building, Iran carried out extensive activities such as incorporating human rights teaching in the public education programs, holding various courses on human rights issues and themes for judges, the staff of the Judiciary and the prison aid workers, administering special courses on human rights issues by Iran's High Council for Human Right and incorporating human rights education for police forces, families and government civil servants.

**Mr. President,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran as a democratic state based on Islamic principles and rationality recognizes that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of the government. Since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iran has constantly sought ways of genuinely and meaningfully involving its nationals without any discrimination of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language or religion, in the governance of the state through holding 35 nation wide democratic elections. The presidential election of 2013 that enjoyed the participation of 72.8% of the eligible people, the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary election in 2012 that attracted 64.2% of the ballot holders to the polls and the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the City and County Councils that led to the election of 126,153 deputies from all over Iran, are among free and fair elections held during the preceding 4 years.

In the meantime, Iran has also provided ample opportunities for the further promotion of NGOs. More than 17,000 highly diverse groups of non-governmental organizations are presently engaged in a wide range of activities including promotion and protection of human rights across the country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates the constitutional right of all its nationals to indiscriminately and genuinely take part in the political affairs of the state. To fulfill such commitments, more than 230 political parties, 400 trade unions and specialized associations, as well as 60 societies affiliated to religious minorities are currently active in Iran.

To provide for the proper and uninterrupted stream of information and knowledge, apart from special radio and television networks comprised of channels and stations broadcasting in local languages, more than 6,100 publications inclusive of 214 magazines and 813 weeklies are also registered and regularly published in the country.

**Mr. President,**

During the 4-year period since the submission of our first UPR report, fundamental developments have taken shape in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights to which I would like to briefly refer as following:

- The Global Health Scheme that address medical and health concerns of all nationals of Iran, extending quality medical services coverage to almost 95% of the population irrespective any of their attributes,
- Development of extensive Mother and Child Care Plan that has led to a considerable reduction in maternal mortality rate,
- Establishment of " National Health and Medication Network " that comprises of 18,000 Health House and 5,000 health and medical centers throughout the country, and considerable reduction in the medical bill of more than 500 state-run hospitals,
- Administering "the Family Doctors System " that covers almost half of Iran's populace to ensure their fair and easy access to medical care services,
- Administration of " the National Immunity Programme " that covers 99% of all people residing in Iran against epidemic diseases and eradication of such diseases,

To enact the provisions of the Constitution for free education for all, almost 95% of the population in rural areas have now easy access to free educational services. According to the UNESCO Education for All Monitoring Report of 2012, Iran now stands with the first 6 states known for having provided gender equality in education.

On MDGs, Iran has fully integrated the 8 international development goals in its latest 5- year development plan. Iran is among the pioneer states in meeting most of the MDG's development targets.

The right to social security coverage and the right to social security assistance for those nationals of Iran that are unable to work due to sickness, disability, maternity, employment injury, unemployment or old age is duly recognized in respective national instruments. For instance since the submission of our first UPR report to

date, the number of the insured and wage-earners on the Iran's National Social Security Organization has increased from 30 million to more than 38 million people. Other social security organizations, in the meantime, have attempted to cover another 30 million of Iran's population.

Iran feels obliged to create and maintain the necessary measures for the protection of the rights of the vulnerable groups. Among a wide range of initiatives adopted for the promotion and protection of the rights of these groups in recent years allow me to make specific reference to the extensive women protection scheme, in particular, that embraces programmes such as development of "the Family Protection Law of 2013", setting up "the Vice- Presidency Bureau for the Women and Family Affairs", and establishing "the Women Consultancy Offices in public administration. They are also exclusively supported by "the Women Employment Fund", "the Women Entrepreneurship and Self- Employment Grant Scheme", Augmenting support, in the meantime, is extended to women to protect them against violence and abuse.

As regards the protection and promotion of the rights of the child, Iran has also developed and enacted numerous modalities and protective instruments namely; establishing the National focal point on the Convention of the Rights of the Child in 2012, development of the Child and Adolescent National Statute in 2014, Development of the Law of the Protection of the Neglected Children in 2014, approving and enacting " the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Family "in 2014, as well as signing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict in 2011.

As a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Iran feels committed to promote, protect, and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities and guarantee that they enjoy full equality under the law. Viewing them as full and equal members of society, as of 2014 they are given seats at the ordinary schools and, among other things, can apply for self-employment bank loans with no interest. Special courses are held for family members of the persons with disabilities and special services are provided to such persons.

**Mr. President,**

Independence of the judiciary in the Islamic Republic of Iran stems from the constitutional notion of the separation of powers, whereby the executive, legislature and judiciary form three separate branches of the government, which can constitute a system of checks and balances aimed at preventing abuses of power. This separation and consequent independence is key to the effective functioning of the Judiciary and upholding the rule of law.

All nationals of Iran are equal before the law and have the right to choose their own lawyers. Among other thing, the principle of presumption of innocence, prohibition of any form of torture, court transparency, impartiality of the judges, the principle of legality, the principle of compensation liability for faulty judgment, and the principle of the prohibition of arbitrary arrest, are distinctive features of our Judiciary.

To further strengthen its role in securing proper administration of the law and ensuring its genuine independence, the Judiciary has adopted a wide series of activities such as the following;

- Constant and regulated supervision over the courts and other organizations affiliated to the judiciary,
- Further strengthening of the Legal and Judicial Deputy Offices of the Judiciary,
- Establishment of the Deputy Office for Strategic Planning to ensure closer coordination and constant monitoring of the functions and the good governance of the Judiciary organs,
- Establishment of Deputy Office for the Prevention of Crime
- Establishment of the Deputy Office for Cultural Affairs to promote the Culture of respect of law in the Society,
- Establishment of the Deputy Office for Information Technology and Communication to ensure easy and rapid access of the nationals of Iran to judiciary organs through internet,
- Increasing specialized training courses for judges,
- Setting up free telephone- operated legal aid consultancy centers,

It is worth recalling that the concept of due process of law has been particularly reiterated in the Constitution, the Penal Proceeding Act and other ordinary laws and call for the right to recourse and fair processing of the legal cases all along the judicial process irrespective of race, religion, gender, ethnicity and /or other attributes of the nationals.

**Mr. President,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously worked for the further promotion of human rights through adopting a constructive and collaborative approach with the respective mechanism. We have faced with challenges along the way as well.

We continue to maintain that appointment of special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran is the fruit of a political, selective, and unjust process that clearly contradicts basic values for the promotion of human rights.

Moreover, imposition of sanctions and unilateral coercive measures against our citizens has created various obstacles in the way of their full enjoyment of human rights in particular their economic, social and cultural rights. Economic coercive measures as an instrument of adversarial policy run contrary to the letter and spirit of human rights instruments.

Like sanctions, terrorism is a flagrant contempt for human dignity and a great threat to international peace and security. As a country that has fallen victim to this most brutal violation of human rights, namely the right to life, Iran adheres to renouncement of all forms of violence and calls for a more concerted international efforts for combatting all forms of terrorism and extremism. Within the last few years, a group of our most brilliant scientists and academicians fell prey to scandalous terrorist activities originated by the most notorious aliens. Based on indisputable facts and evidences,

these terrorist groups are behind the indiscriminate assassination of 17,000 innocent nationals of Iran from all walks of life.

**Mr. President,**

Apart from terrorism, drug trade and related activities continue to undermine the legitimate economies and threaten the stability, security and sovereignty of the States and the dignity of their subjects.

Despite all odds, Iran, therefore, continues to fully comply with its international and moral obligations by extending full and frank cooperation to the UN machinery and other interested states on the international campaign against drugs. According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Iran is netting eight times more opium and three times more heroin than all other countries in the world combined. It is worth recalling that the country's war on drug-trafficking has also claimed the lives of nearly 4,000 Iranian brave border guards and security forces over the past 34 years.

On the other hand, Iran has constantly provided decent sanctuary to more than 4 million refugees from the neighboring countries. Recalling the imposition of the most recent unjustified and unfair sanctions on innocent people of Iran and their ensuing hardship, they most graciously chose to continue to host the homeless refugees with open arms and hearts. The international principle of burden sharing, in the meantime, calls on the international society and the UN member states to discharge their ethical and moral obligations toward refugees residing in Iran in the context of UNHCR cooperation programmes and their voluntary support.

**Mr. President,**

As in the past, Iran continues to fully participate in the international deliberations and activities for the promotion of human rights. Among other things, Iran has continually extended its full cooperation to the UN Human Rights mechanism and has spared no collaborative efforts, in dealing with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

My delegation is ready to hear from distinguished delegates, and will provide this august body with more detailed response.

**I thank you.**

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