

**Written Statement by the
Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran while joined the consensus on the resolution adopted by the 42nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development on 3 April 2009, entitled *The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals*, would like to explain its positions as follows:

- 1- Any reference in the text to “sexuality”, “sexual behavior” and “sexual relations” would be interpreted in the framework of marriage, consistent with the domestic laws and regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 2- References to “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights” should not explicitly or otherwise, be interpreted as the right to abortion. It should be noted that abortion is permitted under certain circumstances sanctioned by the “Abortion Law” of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 3- In planning and conducting sexual and reproductive education ethics, religious and cultural values of the society should be taken into consideration.