

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

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Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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Item 3a: promoting full employment and decent work for all

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

The World Summit for Social Development recognized employment and productive work as central to the development process and “an effective way to combat poverty and promote social integration”. In addition, one of the central pillars of the 1995 Copenhagen World Summit of Social Development was to promote the goal of full employment as a basic priority of economic and social policies both at the national and international levels, and to enable men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods. Yet, given the existing levels and trends of unemployment, the commitments to generate full and productive employment and decent work are facing considerable challenges. Recent studies indicate that 1.5 billion people are either unemployed or underemployed, and about one third of the world’s working –age population is not participating at all in the labour markets. The current situation of the world is characterized by high and increasing unemployment and underemployment, unproductive jobs, unsafe work and insecure income. Still today, young people without privilege and wealth struggle to find a way to the labour market and older persons enjoy less and less security for a lifetime of work.

Unemployment generates poverty while full employment and decent work are important channels for poverty alleviation. Thus, the major objective of the Commission should be focusing on how best it could carry forward the goal of full employment and decent work for all, and improve the lives and families of different sections of societies. The outcome of this august body should be action oriented and aim to make a real difference in the living conditions of all individuals in particular in developing countries. The ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2006 provided a platform for concrete action to promote full employment and decent work. The Commission should contribute to the implementation of the ministerial declaration and should ensure greater coherence of its work in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Full and productive employment and decent work for all are key elements of sustainable development in all countries and should therefore be a priority in international cooperation. The challenges of achieving full employment and decent work require a comprehensive approach at the national and international levels. To this end, at the World Summit for Social Development, the goal of full and productive employment was put at the forefront of the United Nations development agenda.

Globalization has had both positive and negative effects on the economies of countries, having opened up new opportunities for development while also contributing to labour market deregulation, which mostly has led to the present deficit of decent work. Hence, the effects of globalization on achieving full employment and decent work require further examination and assessment. The international community should enhance its efforts within the context of globalization and its possible threats to the global employment to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem. Creating such a congenial environment, based on an integrated and coherent set of policies at the international levels, is deemed essential to support growth, poverty reduction and creation of decent jobs for all in the world. Thank you