

**Islamic Republic of**

**I R A N**

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**Statement by**

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**Forty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development**

**Item 3a and b: Follow up to the World Summit for Social**

**Development and the twenty- fourth special session of the General**

**Assembly**

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

**Madam Chair,**

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his useful and informative reports on this agenda item which helps us to enrich our deliberations and discussions. My delegation is pleased to align itself with the statement made by the Sudan on behalf of the G-77 and China

**Madam Chairperson,**

The current session of the Commission on Social Development is devoted to the issue of social integration as a priority theme of our discussion, bearing in mind its relation with the other two pillars of the Copenhagen Declaration and Plan of Action, namely poverty eradication and full employment. Social integration, as defined by the World Summit for Social Development, aims to create "a society for all", a society which is inclusive and integrative of all sections and groups regardless of their race, sex, language or religion. Social integration is inseparable from poverty eradication and full employment. A mutually reinforcing relationship exists between economic growth and social well being and inclusion. Poverty and unemployment would lead to social exclusion, and the other side of the coin is also equally correct that social integration is an important factor for poverty eradication and full employment for all. The fact is rightly reflected in the report of the Secretary General and I quote: "Poverty is often associated with the lack of social integration while poverty reduction and decent work are often seen as pathways to social integration and greater inclusion. Poverty can be both the cause and consequence of social exclusion" end of quote.

Extreme poverty persists throughout the world, and the international community is lagged behind achieving the commitment it made in the Millennium Declaration in terms of poverty eradication. The Millennium Development Goals

starts with poverty eradication for its overall impacts on other aspects of economic growth and social development.

The other pillar of the social development, full employment, is equally important in particular at the time when the current financial crises led to the abrupt increase of unemployment. 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. Unemployment generates poverty and social exclusion while full employment and decent work are important channels for social integration and poverty alleviation.

**Madam Chair,**

Protection of family foundation is a key element to achieve social integration. Family is the basic unit of a society and as such should be protected and preserved. Since 1994 a number of activities have been undertaken by the international community towards the objectives of the International Year of Family. We reiterate the call made by the G-77 and China that the Commission for Social Development considers preparations for the observance of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in its future sessions. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has designed various policies and programmes to support family foundation. The Center for Women and Family Affairs affiliated to the Office of the President has the mandate to monitor implementation of those policies from the highest possible level.

Similarly, other social groups such as older persons, the youth and persons with disabilities are receiving appropriate attention and support from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For instance, on the issue of ageing, respect for the well being of older persons is deeply rooted in the Iranian culture and was guaranteed by different laws and regulations. The Social Security Organization of Iran as a

member of national focal points on ageing works along with other governmental and non-governmental organizations on this issue. Their tasks include, inter alia, reaching out to older persons to ensure their rights, economic security and health care. The Social Security Organization has also initiated a plan called "Respect for the older persons" by which a wide range of health care services devoted to these people. Furthermore, the Iranian Research Center on Ageing is active on research and data collection on ageing in order to better understand the social and psychological needs of the older persons.

**Madam Chair,**

For achieving social development at the national level a conducive and favorable international condition is vital. The current global crises are leaving a negative impact on the efforts of countries at national levels to achieve social development. In this regard, we are satisfied that the Commission chose the subject of "the global crises and their impact on social development" as its emerging issue for further discussion and consideration. Moreover, realization of social development is negatively affected in many developing countries by unilateral coercive measures which are totally unacceptable as they run against basic principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. These negative trends at the international level seriously impede the realization of goals and objectives of social development, and thus should be addressed accordingly.

**Thank you**

