

IRAN

The Answer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Questionnaire to Governments on Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the Outcome of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly (2000)

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken the following measures to improve the status of women in various sectors:

Part One

An Overview of Achievements and Challenges of Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

A) From the very early days of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, attention to the situation of women was put on the agenda of the government of Islamic Republic of Iran. Gradually a gender approach found its proper place in the major development plans of the country and was integrated into all programs and policies. In fact some major women issues have been stipulated in the Article 158 of the Third Development Plan and the Presidential Center for Participation of Women (Under the President's Office), which was established in 1997 to plan, coordinate, supervise and monitor the activities of the Executive in the field of Women affairs, is in charge of identifying and elucidating the problems and difficulties of women and tries to remove them through the assistance of the executive organizations. According to the executive statute of Article 158, The Presidential Center for Participation of Women (CPW) is duty-bound to identify the problems of women and offer appropriate solutions to the related organizations and also follow up their implementation. The main areas of the activities of the CPW are:

- 1 – Education
- 2 – Cultural affairs
- 3 – Sports affairs
- 4 – Economic participation
- 5 – Women legal affairs
- 6 – Expansion of women non-government organizations (NGOs)

Through planning and implementation of necessary plans and programs as well as through coordination with the related organizations, the CPW follows up the execution of the Article 158 of the Third Development Plan. It is pertinent here to mention that the institutionalization of the gender approach and its incorporation into the Fourth Development Plan became possible with the firm determination and coordination of all branches of the government, the non-government organizations as well as the institutions of the civil society. As a result there are 24 articles and clauses in the bill of the Fourth Development Plan stipulating the social, economic, and cultural participation of women. The bill is currently on the agenda of the Parliament for its final approval.

B) Following the Forth World Conference on Women, the Action Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran was prepared by the executive organizations as well as non-governmental organizations in 1997 and was notified to all organizations by the president. The Action Plan encompasses all the points of Platform of Action. It is noteworthy that the Second National Action Plan is on the agenda of the Center for Participation of Women.

C) After the Millennium Summit, the objectives of the Millennium Development were defined in eight points. Cooperation between the representatives of the government and non-governmental organizations with coordination of the UNDP began in Iran to prepare a report on the basis of indices for implementation of the above eight points. Currently, some groups representing MDG and CCA have been merged and a greater working group has been set up to define the program and set the priorities to achieve the objectives for the Millennium Development. The group will set the priorities for the 15-year and five-year programs for cooperation with the UN agencies.

D) The CPW tries to pave the way for Iran to join the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women (CEADW). It also tries to remove hurdles in the way of its approval by concerned organizations.

E) From the early days of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, revision and amendment of laws and their adjustment with the requirements of time and space as well as legislation of new required laws to restore the rights of women have been on the agenda of the government of the Islamic Republic Iran. Some of the efforts in this regard have yielded fruit, while others are in the midway and will lead to tangible results in the near future. Some of the measures taken in this direction are as follows: the efforts and measures taken by women fraction in the parliament aimed to review some articles of the Civil Code; the studies and efforts of the same group in the Research Center of the Parliament for reviewing some articles of the Civil Code; the efforts of the High Council of Judicial Development for the revision of the Civil and Family Codes and the efforts of the Presidential Center for Participation of Women for the implementation of the Project for the Reformation of the Women Comprehensive Legal and Juridical System. According to the Article 158 of the Third Development Plan the CPW has been entrusted with the task of preparing the necessary projects for facilitating the legal and juridical affairs of women and follow up their implementation by the related organizations (for instance through organizing joint research activities by the judicial organizations). The project has been prepared which covers three major issues:

- 1 – A Study of the Theoretical Aspects of Women’s Rights;
- 2 – The Necessity of Reviewing the Theoretical Aspects of Women’s Rights;
- 3 – A Study of Various Aspects of Women’s Rights and Some Proposals for their Reforms and Amendment.

The project will be completed shortly.

The details of the legal amendments to laws related to women titled “Steps Forward” is attached.

F) In the light of its two-year experience and given the existing problems in the provisions regarding the implementation of Article 158, the CPW proposed that the budget for a plan on expansion of soci-cultural participation of women be envisaged under the budgets of executive and academic centers. The proposal was taken into consideration by the Planning and Management Organization and with the approval of the Parliament was incorporated into the 2003 budget. The plan envisaged under provision no. 30228 of the budget law encompasses all functions and affairs that can be bracketed within the definition of women affairs. With the approval of this plan the budget of the women affairs increased by 226 percent in 2003 compared to that of the year 2002.

G) With regard to efforts to eradicate discrimination against women, overall a 30-million-dollar budget has been allocated to this issue for 2003-2004. Some of the outstanding points in this regard are enumerated below.

- A project to assess the needs of the women in the rural and urban areas was launched by the Center for Participation of Women in 2003. The main objectives of this project were:
 - 1 – Identification of women’s demands in the cultural, social and economic fields;
 - 2 – Prioritization of demands, needs, problems and difficulties of women in various regions;
 - 3 – Identification of cultural, social, and economic hurdles in the way of women participation.

The findings and results of this project prepared a reliable base for the current plans.

- A project to assess the needs of the girls was launched by the Center for Participation of Women in 1998.
- A project to assess the attitudes towards women was launched by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

On the threshold of the third millennium, the idea of Dialogue among Civilizations and Coalition for Peace, which were initiated by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyed Mohammad Khatami, are supposed to help diminish such plagues as wars of aggression, arm conflicts, civil wars, etc. The doctrine of Dialogue among Civilizations and Coalition of Peace will definitely promote mutual understanding among people of different cultures and civilizations. The theory can reduce the conflicts, help peaceful settlement of conflicts and maintain peace and security at global, regional and local levels which is crucial for protection of human rights of women and girl-children.

Some measures have been taken in this line in the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to bring the women to the center-stage from the margin to make them active in the Dialogue among Civilizations and Coalition for Peace. Some of these measures are as follows:

- Singing agreements with some of the neighboring countries to elaborate the role of women in the dialogue among civilizations and preparing an action plan to this effect
- Holding seminars, conferences and sessions about the same topic.
- Publication of various books
- Supporting related studies and basic researches

- Continuous cooperation with the universities and scientific centers in order to increase the scientific weight of the issue compared to its political aspect
- Preparing the grounds and supporting the establishment of women non-governmental organizations, particularly the ones for role of women in dialogue among civilizations and protection of refugee and displaced women and children

In fact with the Nobel Prize being awarded to Ms. Shirin Ibadi, an Iranian Muslim Lawyer, in 2003, the responsibility of the Iranian women in safeguarding the rights of women and maintenance of peace has in effect doubled.

I) Globalization posed new challenges and opportunities. The utilization of the golden, unique opportunities provided to the nations by the globalization of economy and culture requires certain plan in logical, rational approach towards the threats of this process ..In order to be able to face the challenges, created in the way of implementation of the governments' pledges for the materialization of the objectives of the world women conferences and also to minimize the threats and negative impacts of the threats stemming from globalization most of which are directed towards the women and children.

With the aim of enhancing the knowledge of Iranian women concerning information and communication technology (ICT), the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has implemented the following projects:

1- Establishment Specialized Women's Digital Library

In this project the bibliographies of 5,000 specialized books concerning women's issues are available in the internet network within a standard format.

*** The databank of articles**

In this project the full text of 2,000 articles have been provided for researchers which will be increased up to 30,000 records in the future.

2- Providing the ICT Training for Women, Especially the Housewives

As the current project is being implemented, the educational compact diskettes concerning women's needs are created on the basis of ICDL international heading and interested people may obtain them with a subsidized and minimum price. A separate credit is also dedicated for holding supplementary tests and classes. This training will be carried out up to the complete learning of the entire list of topics concerning application of software such as Windows, Word, Power Point, Excel, Access.

3- Designing the CPW Website

In order to disseminate the Islamic Republic of Iran's official information and statistics concerning women, the official website of CPW (www.women.org.ir) was launched. The information of this site are regularly upgraded.

4- Statistical Bank

In this project all existing official statistics concerning women's issues are collected and standardized and they are currently accessible by means of the local network and the Internet.

5- Training the Staff of the CPW

Through this project all the CPW staff were trained and familiarized with the software related to their field of activities.

6- The Iranian Genius Women's Bank

The objectives of this project are as follow:

- 1) Identifying scientifically superior women with professor, assistant professor and lecturer ranks
- 2) An instant access to necessary information and better usage of outstanding women's work
- 3) Providing better-quality services for the country's scientific and educational geniuses.

Mention may be made here that the TAKFA (Empowering Application of Information Technology) Project has been on the agenda of the government organizations since 2002. A budget of 700 million rials has been allocated to the Center for Participation of Women for 2003-2004.

J) On the basis of the Articles 70 and 71 of the Third Development Plan and according to the executive statute of these articles, planning and distribution of the provincial budgets had been delegated to the planning and development councils of the provinces. In order to support the decisions of these councils, a number of professional committees have been set up. One of these committees is the provincial Committee of the Women and Youth Affairs, whose duty is to support and study plans related to the affairs of the women of each province. Through studying the conditions of women in the provinces and identifying their problems and difficulties as well as setting their priorities, the committees of women and youth affairs prepare the necessary plans for women affairs in each province and propose them to the provincial councils and after their approval supervise its implementation.

K) Given the position of women NGOs, the CPW transferred some of the duties and responsibilities of the public sector to women NGOs and supported these organizations in order to empower them. During the past two years, the CPW has put the plan of expansion of NGOs on its agenda. The modality is that these organizations receive support to undertake some roles earlier assigned to the public sector or they are supported to implement specific programs.

The CPW also implemented the plan of empowerment of women with the cooperation of the Interior Ministry through which 250 trainees received training across the country within the framework of two training courses.

Another concern of the CPW has been organization and guidance of studies and research about women affairs. According to the Article 158 of the Third Development Plan, the center is duty-bound to follow up its implementation by the related organizations.

With the approval of the Third Social, Economic and Cultural Development Plan in the year 2000, the Center's policies and strategies for women's NGOs were set according to this plan.

The Third Development Plan unlike the first and second ones possesses innovative features, because for the first time with the efforts made by the Center for Participation of Women, the Article 158 of the Third Plan has some provisions for this Center.

According to this plan the concept of "Non-governmental Organizations" in its common meaning and through a special view is incorporated into the government's major programs.

The year 2000 was in fact a turning point in the Center's cooperation with women's NGOs, which actually reflects a desirable picture of joint participation between government and non-governmental sectors. Thus concerning the exploitation of present capabilities, power and capacities of women's NGOs and assigning more roles to these organizations according to part (d) of Article 158 of the Third Plan in 2000, 11 employment and vocational training plans, 10 educational programs, three plans in the cultural and informational fields and three research plans were performed out of a total of 27 joint projects. These have been carried out considering that in the same year, non-refundable financial aids have been granted to 75 women NGOs for equipping and capacity-building purposes (regardless of performance of projects).

Along with performance of these plans, employment opportunities were provided to 303 women, education for 4,959 and information dissemination in cultural fields for 450 woman from different social strata.

In the year 2001 also the trend of women empowerment in the non- women governmental organizations which were included in the goals and priorities of the Third Development Plan continued. It should be noted that in the same year the number of plans had increased more than twice the figure for the pervious year and had reached 52 plans. Out of them 15 plans had been introduced for employment and vocational training, 16 for education, 11 for cultural and information dissemination and 10 for supporting purposes. These created employment for 511 young woman: woman heads of household, deprived woman and women belonging to broken families; It also provided education to 2,510 women from various groups and classes, information dissemination for 5,700 women in cultural fields and also included 10 supportive plans.

(I) Measures:

- 1) Mainstreaming gender perspective into all major policies and national programs and projects.
- 2) Men's participation on protecting women's rights for reproductive health and women empowerment in a four year project.
- 3) Making efforts to modify attitudes of men, particularly those of male managers towards women issues.
- 4) Introduction and implementation of family health projects.
- 5) National projects for education of young people.
- 6) Planning to celebrate the 19th anniversary of the World Family Day in May 2004.
- 7) Conducting a survey regarding father's role in the family.
- 8) Implementing official literacy programs for girl and boy students.
- 9) Elimination of gender stereotypes in school textbooks.

- 10) The preparation of the bill of the Fourth Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan on the basis of a gender approach and to attract the participation of men and women in all stages of its implementation (the bill is currently being studied by the Parliament).
- 11) Asking male officials and managers to implement the plans and projects related to the development of social and cultural participation of women by allocation of 25 per-cent of the budget of the government organizations to the women affairs in 2002-2003 and its continuation in 2003-2004.

(II) Challenges, Barriers

Given that achieving gender equality and empowerment of women requires compensation of and remedying the existing inequalities between men and women, girls and boys, as well as guaranteeing equal rights, responsibilities, opportunities, and facilities for both men and men, there is still a long way ahead to the desirable destiny where all needs, interests, tastes, experiences, and priorities of women and men would constitute one of the main aspects of all the plans, their implementation and their national supervision, follow up and evaluation in all arenas and areas.

Part Two

Progress in the process of implementation of Beijing Platform for Action (1995) the Outcome of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly (2000)

| Critical Areas of Concern | A. Examples of successful policies, legislatives amendments and programs and projects | B. Examples of obstacles encountered and remaining gaps and challenges | C. Lessons learned |
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| 1 – Women and poverty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Consolidating the women rural economic organizations through establishing small credit funds in the provinces of the country * Launching agricultural production projects in the rural areas * Establishing cooperatives of graduate women and girls * Establishing permanent or seasonal markets in the border provinces in order to sell the products of the women cooperatives * Supporting and consolidating the economic and job-creating activities of woman heads of household * Identification and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures which is not in accordance with international laws and charter of the united nation * Lack of women financial independence and unequal access to financial sources, resources, opportunities, and facilities * Adverse Impacts of globalization, new economic order and economic restructuring policies on women's conditions * Insufficient knowledge of women of modern economy and global market and new economic opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The positive, direct impact of expansion and consolidation of creating self-employment opportunities for women on the improvement of their life conditions * The positive, direct impact of the creation and establishment of centers and organizations for technical, professional training of women on the improvement of their life conditions * The positive, direct impact of expansion and consolidation of women cooperatives on the improvement of their life conditions * Serious attention to women's status in the comprehensive |

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| | <p>evaluation of the quick-yielding productive employment projects and their introduction to the related organizations such as the Employment Fund and the Secretariat of the High Council of Employment</p> <p>* Establishing a network of communication between the rural women cooperatives and their empowerment</p> <p>* Creation of job for the women heads of household through non-governmental organizations and establishment of garments producing workshops, intermediate industries, packaging industries, animal products, agricultural produce, carpet weaving, and handicraft workshops.</p> <p>* Selling houses to the low-income strata including the women heads of family (from 1998</p> | | <p>welfare and social security systems</p> <p>* Supporting the insurance of housewives</p> <p>* Expansion of the funds for promotion of women employment</p> <p>* Assisting the marketing of goods produced by women</p> <p>* Addressing the issue of globalization's impact on this area and utilizing the experiences of other nations and international organizations</p> <p>* The positive impact of empowerment of women heads of household</p> <p>* Addressing the economic affairs of the divorced women, particularly the low-income housewives (implementation of the Article 21 of the Constitution on the allocation of pension to the widows)</p> <p>* Supporting</p> |
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| | <p>onward) on installment basis</p> <p>* Launching national plans for empowerment of women non-governmental organizations within the framework of priority national plans and supporting the employment, training, and cultural projects as well as information dissemination plans for the rural and less-developed areas of the country</p> <p>* Launching the national women empowerment and entrepreneurship plan in three areas of training, research and consultation and their expansion</p> <p>* Launching the project of Social Security of Housewives in 38 cities which will be completed by the end of 2004</p> <p>* Promotion of entrepreneurship of women and the youth (joint project of the UNIDO and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs)</p> | | <p>investment in and formation of capital in the agro-industrial complexes with a view to expand rural women's employment</p> <p>* Improving the census systems in order to reflect the real share of women in gross domestic product</p> <p>* Vigorous impact of crisis of unemployment on the livelihood of women</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Forming Assisting Groups to assist the women heads of household in order to increase their abilities in economic, social and economic fields | | |
| 2 – Education and Training of Women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 62 per cent increase in the number of girl students admitted to the universities over the past few years * Introduction and expansion of a course on Women Studies in the universities of the country since 2001 * Promotion of literacy among the women; the latest women literacy rate in the country is 79.74 per cent * Increasing the number of boarding guidance schools in the less-developed areas or underdeveloped areas * Increasing the number of rural schools or rural-centered schools * Launching remote teaching and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Number of graduate women seeking employment is very high * Failure to completely eliminate gender discrimination in educational institutions in some parts of the country | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The positive impact of promotion of specialized and skilled women to the higher statuses of the decision-making centers in the educational system * The positive impact of the improvement of stereotypes pictures and images of women in the textbooks and the media * More attempts to totally eradicate women illiteracy *Promotion of training of information technology among the women through official educational system and utilization of favorable grounds for the application of modern IT and ICT methods |

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| | <p>correspondent courses as well as virtual and at-home courses</p> <p>* Uploading the educational materials on the women legal affairs on the site of “Tebyan”</p> <p>* Promoting girl’s and women’s general awareness through holding training courses and workshops, seminars, classes, conferences and through public media</p> <p>* Preparation of scientific, educational projects on the scientific home management, rights of family, economy of the family, and education of the couples</p> <p>* Preparation of some flexible programs, specially for girls and diversifying and expanding the technical, vocational courses for the girls</p> | | |
| 3 – Women and Health | * Increase in the life expectancy of women compared to | *Insufficient informative and preventive programs | * Utilizing the experiences of the countries having |

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| | <p>that of men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Launching a program to boost high school girl students through education, offering nutrition, and iron pills on weekly basis * Improving the level of services rendered in the healthcare centers, particularly with regard to fertilization hygiene * Contribution of the non-governmental and charity Organizations in offering health service * Launching an operational project on mothers aimed at improving the health level of mothers and spreading the idea of healthy mother * Launching an operational project on the health of women and the aged * Launching a project on the support for the right to pregnancy healthcare and empowerment of | <p>against the threatening diseases and AIDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * High costs of healthcare, treatment and prevention | <p>similar cultures and healthcare practices with our country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Participation of the young generation in the preventive, treatment and healthcare programs * Positive impact of the activities of private sector in the field of healthcare and health of the society * Launching some programs in order to improve the general condition of girls' and women's nutrition * Continuation of the family planning policies * Promoting the food security of the families at the national and local levels * Promotion of services through establishing healthcare centers |
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| | <p>women in the form of the Third Economic, Social and Cultural Plan of the country in the Provinces of Gulestan, Busher, Kurdistan and Islamshahr, and Tehran (joint project of UNFPA and Center for Participation of Women to be completed by 2004)</p> <p>* Launching a program on the expansion of the culture of proper nutrition of women and girls</p> <p>* Expansion and consolidation of research and information dissemination about various aspects of women's health</p> <p>* Launching the project of the Healthy Family around the following topics: education of sexual behavior, nutrition, mental health, addition, AIDS, etc.</p> <p>* Launching a research project on the healthcare status of fertility in four provinces of the</p> | | |
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| | <p>country: Gulestan, Kurdistan, Busher, and Islamshahr of Tehran</p> <p>* Promotion of information dissemination in the field of health programs through public media</p> | | |
| 4 – Violence against Women | <p>* Implementation of a national research plan on the Violence against Women which is in its final stages</p> <p>* Introducing a bill on the human trafficking to prevent trafficking of women which is being studied by the parliament</p> <p>* Studying the possibility of joining the convention on the prevention of Organized Intra-national Crimes and its additional protocol on the trafficking of women and children</p> <p>* Setting up a special female police centers in the Police Stations in the major cities and employing women police officers and expanding activities related to the</p> | <p>* Inadequacy of awareness of the couples of their rights and duties</p> <p>* Wrong interpretation and readings of the religious teachings and instructions</p> <p>* Women’s economic dependence on men</p> <p>* Lack of proper understanding of the religious and ethical principles and values regarding the treatment of women</p> <p>* Shortage of centers specifically meant to support the women</p> <p>* Insufficiency consultation of the couples with the family consulting centers</p> <p>* Imprecise statistics on the</p> | <p>* Improvement of the cultural approaches of the society towards women and their role in the society and family as well as promotion of the level of practical awareness towards women status through contribution of the public media, particularly the radio and television</p> <p>* Offering gender-sensitive education to all the players including the police officers, judicial officials, etc.</p> <p>* Following unified comprehensive measures on the legal, educational (preventive) protective, security measures, including the setting up of centers to cope with crisis, establishment of safe house, crisis telephone numbers,</p> |

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| | <p>support of the women</p> <p>*Creating centers of crisis management, healthy guest houses, centers for the rehabilitation of the socially broken women, center of healthy house of women by the Welfare Organization</p> <p>* Supporting the activities of the non-governmental organizations in order to encourage popular institutions to launch their widespread activities against any violence against women</p> <p>* Encouraging and directing student theses and research papers on the reasons, nature and consequences of violence against women</p> <p>* Holding and sponsoring seminars and conferences to sensitize the society and increasing public awareness towards the consequences of violence against women</p> | <p>level, forms and cases of violence against women</p> <p>* Inadequacy of the measures thus far taken from the legal, preventive, security and protective points of view</p> | <p>amendment of the laws to reduce violent behavior reformation of the society's public culture, etc.</p> <p>* Direct and indirect education of skills of treatment and establishment of healthy individual, sexual relations and spread of the culture of respect to human rights in the society</p> |
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| | <p>* Study, review and amendment of rules and regulation and laws on women and family (the project of Amendment of the Women Legal and Juridical Comprehensive System which is in its final stages)</p> <p>* The suspension of the decree of stoning to death</p> <p>*Offering consultations to women through telephone in the Emergency Police Centers “110” in the field of social emergencies</p> | | |
| 5 – Women and Armed Conflict | <p>Reference to the first part of the clause H of the Questionnaire</p> <p>* Preparing the grounds for the women to be promoted to the high levels of decision-making in various fields including in the field of defense</p> <p>* Setting up training centers for women across the country, particularly in the fields of first aid</p> | | <p>* The expansion of Iran’s cooperation with international organizations in this field</p> <p>* Increased responsibility of the Iranian women in maintenance of peace and materialization of human rights following the award of the Nobel Prize, 2003, to Ms. Shirin Ibadi, an Iranian Muslim woman lawyer</p> |

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| | <p>and relief, spreading of the culture of peace and friendship, respect to the rights of all human beings, and voluntary work to relieve human sufferings</p> <p>* Allocation of 230 billion rials to nursing tasks to the spouses of the disabled war veterans (the disabled women get higher pays compared to men)</p> <p>* Monthly payment of salaries by the Janbazan and Mustazafan Foundation of the Islamic Revolution of Iran to all women disabled war veterans whose handicap is above 25 percent and the widows of the diseased disabled war veterans</p> <p>* Payment of housing loans to the widows of the diseased war veterans by the Janbazan and Mustazafan Foundation of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and allocating houses to</p> | | <p>* Positive impacts of the Dialogue among Civilizations and Coalition for Peace on the situation of women</p> |
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| | <p>the disabled women war veterans on priority basis</p> <p>* Singing the Rome Statute (International Criminal Court) on December 31, 2000</p> <p>* Singing the Additional Protocol to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on December 18, 2003</p> <p>* Approving the Law of Additional Insurance of the Families of the Disabled War Veterans</p> | | |
| 6 – Women and the Economy | <p>* Special attention of the Third Development Plan to expansion of various professions and reduction of the rate of unemployment particularly with regard to women employment</p> <p>* Holding seminars to prepare the cultural grounds for the consolidation of economic and commercial networks for women</p> <p>* Preparing the necessary grounds</p> | <p>* Inadequate access of women to Information and Communication Technology</p> <p>* Increase in the number of unemployed educated girls</p> <p>* Deficiency of awareness of women about marketing skills</p> <p>* Lack of connection between education and the market demands</p> <p>* Multiple</p> | <p>* The positive impact of the establishment of educational, training and vocational centers for women in improving their status</p> <p>* Positive impact of women’s access to small credit funds for upgrading their self-confidence and self-reliance</p> <p>* Adverse impact of the absence of women in the high economic decision-making centers</p> |

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| | <p>for the reconstruction and streamlining of professional units for women by providing them financial resources, tools and equipments, continuous consultation, marketing, etc.,</p> <p>*Giving non-formal economic training to women in 84 different vocations</p> <p>* Offering professional and vocational consultation to women and young workers and attending to their problems</p> <p>* Setting up short-term scientific-applied courses for training entrepreneurship</p> | <p>responsibilities of women and the paradox between various family and social roles</p> | |
| 7 – Women in Power and Decision-Making | <p>* Implementing existing project to train 300 women managers (the project is in its final stages)</p> <p>* Attempts to appoint women at various levels of the state positions, leading to the</p> | <p>* Inadequate financial resources during the electioneering</p> <p>* Lack of self-confidence among the women with regard to political participation</p> | <p>* Positive impact of the encouragement of political parties and NGOs to introduce more women in political arenas</p> <p>* Positive impact of the media publicity about the women political</p> |

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| | <p>increase in the number of women present in the high-ranking and medium-ranking managerial positions</p> <p>* Launching a research project on the participation of women in 28 provincial capitals of the country in order to identify the patterns, obstacles to the implementation of women political participation</p> <p>* Appointing a woman as vice-president and head of the Environment Protection Organization (EPO) of the country</p> <p>*Appointment of a number of women as advisors to the president in the field of women's affairs, politics and media</p> <p>*Participation of two women in the cabinet meetings</p> <p>*53.81 per cent increase in the number of candidates for the seventh parliament elections</p> <p>* 154.87 per cent</p> | | <p>participation</p> <p>* Enhancement of women participation in the legislative bodies and policy-making organizations and acceptance of their role in general decisions making processes with quotation system in the elections and in the structures of the parties</p> <p>* Increase incentives for the women participation in the political and social arenas through providing the necessary structures to this effect has led to the increase in the number of merited candidates and augmentation of awareness and confidence among society of their abilities of women which has in turn led to their stronger participation in the key decision-making processes</p> |
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| | <p>increase in the number of women members of the local councils in the second term of the local councils</p> <p>* Appointment of four women as deputy ministers</p> <p>* Appointment of women as governor, mayor, etc.</p> <p>* Preparing the plan of promotion of women's managerial status and its submission to the sub-committee of the social affairs of the cabinet (Center for the Participation of Women)</p> | | |
| 8 – Human Rights of Women | <p>* Establishment of center for dissemination of legal information about women in Tehran and four other provinces including, Mazandaran, Khorasan, Fars, and Isfahan (joint project of Center for Participation of Women and UNDP)</p> <p>* Launching a project to educate legal rights to the girl students</p> | <p>* Inadequacy acquaintance of women with litigation procedures</p> <p>* Insufficient coordination measures concerned to promotion of women's rights</p> | <p>* Direct, positive impact of the activities of the women NGOs in the field of training and upgrading the rights of the women</p> <p>* Continuation of the revision of the laws could in fact be a preventive factor blocking the spread of the wrong behavioral patterns, beliefs and ideas</p> <p>* The impact of education (legal training) and raise</p> |

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| | <p>* Preparation of the project on the legal education of women in the family for the housewives</p> <p>* Setting up a group in the Parliament (Research Center) to review the Civil Code</p> <p>* Setting up a group to review the civil code and family codes by the High Council of Judicial Development</p> <p>*Following up the approval of joining the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women</p> <p>* Holding seminars, meetings and workshops for the improvement of women’s legal awareness</p> <p>* Reviewing of some rules and regulations specifically related to women and family</p> | | <p>of awareness of their human rights among the women will finally force the officials to become accountable</p> |
| <p>9 – Women and Media</p> | <p>* Approval of the proposal to incorporate a two-credit unit of Women Studies into the curriculum of</p> | <p>*Slender presence of women in the high decision making media centers</p> | <p>* Necessity of increasing public belief in the merited role of women in the cultural and artistic fields</p> |

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| | <p>some university courses particularly for the students of filmmaker at the College of the Islamic Republic Broadcasting Organization (IRIB)</p> <p>* 53 per cent increase in the number of women managing directors of various publications compared to 1997</p> <p>*Holding various cultural-educational workshops for the producers of the IRIB with special attention to the issues related to women and family in order that women’s needs and concerns are properly reflected</p> <p>* Holding women studies, training sessions for the women working in the film production sector (evaluators, directors, producers, and researchers)</p> <p>* Completion of the media cycle (Internet) in the TV channels and setting up various websites about the women,</p> | <p>* Inadequate specialized training courses for women</p> <p>* Lack of clarity regarding the role of women in the process of cultural development of the society</p> <p>* Lack of precise statistics regarding the presence of women in this arena</p> <p>* Depicting stereotype images of woman and her status in the media</p> | <p>* Necessity of improving the given image of the women in the public media</p> <p>* Emphasis on the role of public media in honing the sensitivity and drawing the attention of the public towards the issues and problems of women (giving awareness to men)</p> |
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| | <p>including those about women, media and TV</p> <p>* Holding short film festivals of Baran (two festivals) to support women filmmakers and the films which disseminate information related to the problems and difficulties of women</p> <p>* Participation of 293 women artists in the arena of cinema in the Fajr Film Festival</p> <p>* Imparting training to 424 girls in the journalism classes held by the Center of Media Research and Studies</p> <p>* Concluding an agreement with the IRIB to launch a joint project for the improvement of cultural attitude of the public towards women (since 2001), whose outcome is a 36-part TV series</p> <p>*The comprehensive project of imparting ITC training to women with special</p> | | |
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| | <p>emphasis on the housewives (the project is on the agenda of Center for Participation of Women and will be implemented with the collaboration of women NGOs)</p> <p>* Allocation of budget for the implementation of the TAKFA (Empowerment of Application of ICT) Project in 2004</p> <p>* Holding a regional training workshop on the management of technology for the women with the cooperation of APCTT</p> <p>* Out of 353 women who are working for the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), 291 are directly working in the news desk and information technology</p> <p>* An increase in the number of women in activities related to publication of books, cultural institutes, information dissemination organizations, publicity centers</p> | | |
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| | <p>and journalism and reporting</p> <p>* Giving public awareness through interviews with the press, radio and television as well as preparation of programs, writing articles about the status, role and position of women</p> | | |
| 10 – Women and Environment | <p>* Appointment of a woman as the vice president and head of the Environment Protection Organization (EPO)</p> <p>* Support and training of NOGs active in the field of environmental issues</p> <p>* Supporting the establishment of more than 120 environmental non-governmental organizations under the management of women with the maximum number of women members in the field of environment</p> <p>* Launching a project to enhance awareness of environment among various women strata in order to</p> | <p>* Inadequacy of public awareness about individual and collective interests in the protection of the environment</p> | <p>* Necessity of cooperation between the government, civil society institutions and private sector for the protection of the environment</p> <p>* Positive impact of the activities of environmental non-governmental organizations in enhancing public awareness about the protection of the environment</p> <p>*Positive impact of women’s participation in the decision making processes regarding the environment protection</p> |

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| | <p>achieve sustainable development</p> <p>* Setting up National Committee of Sustainable Development in line with the Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration since 1993</p> <p>* Setting up of the national committee for preparation for the Johannesburg Summit</p> <p>* Allocation of the necessary annual budget for two projects on Green Management for all government departments</p> | | |
| 11 – The Girl-Child | <p>* A project on the improvement of the health of high school girl students through education of nutrition in the rural and urban areas</p> <p>* The National Program of Expansion of Women Sports across the country in order to prepare the grounds for a better utilization of leisure hours of women and girls and ensure their physical and</p> | <p>* The existence of some practical discriminations against the sons and daughters in some families</p> <p>* Imbalance distribution of recreational and entertainment facilities and resources between boys and girls</p> | <p>* Proving cultural, social and religious grounds for revision of some laws and rules and regulations on the rights of the children including the girl-children</p> <p>* Necessity of removing cultural and personal limitations and hurdles in the way of girls and women presence and activities in the public places (sports, cultural, and</p> |

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| | <p>mental health as well as bringing about happiness and freshness to the girls</p> <p>* A project on the training of the dropout girl students</p> <p>* A project on assisting the alleviation of individual, social, and family crises encompassing the street children (including the girl child), the girl children subjected to family violence, the runaway girls and the delinquent girl children</p> <p>* Implementation of the project of Health House for insuring economic needs of the girl children and safeguarding them against social maladies</p> <p>* Establishment of dormitories and hostels by Imam Khomeini's Relief Committee for the girls exposed to maladies in the broken or disorderly families, such as the families of the addict</p> <p>* Establishment of</p> | | <p>recreational) and expansion and diversification of their presence</p> <p>* Necessity to insure individual, social and judicial security of women and girls (particularly the girl-children)</p> <p>* Attempts to prepare the cultural grounds and improve a better utilization of the leisure hours of the girl students in the schools by creating proper spaces for them</p> <p>* Attempts to change the attitude of families towards boys and girls through utilizing the press and media and also reviewing and changing the textbooks and educational systems</p> |
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| | <p>dormitories and hostels or boarding schools for the girls in the deprived areas or nomadic areas by the Imam Khomeini's Relief Committee</p> <p>* Implementation of a project on the Proper Culture of Nutrition of Women and Girls including the girl-children</p> <p>* Cooperation between the Ministry of Health of Iran and UNICEF for the children health in five provinces of the country including the girl-children and reduction of health inequalities in 2003</p> <p>* Launching a research project on the reasons for the escape of girls from their homes and families</p> <p>* Launching a project on the legal training of the girl students in the high schools of the country</p> <p>* Amendment of some of the laws and revision of some rules and</p> | | |
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| | <p>regulation directly affecting the life of the girl-children, including the law of custodianship and increasing the age of marriage</p> <p>* Implementing some educational programs on children nutrition and health through children programs broadcast by the IRIB (state-run television)</p> <p>* Setting up some telephone numbers by the Welfare Organization to fight violence against children</p> <p>* Parliament's study of the Comprehensive Plan to Protect Children Rights</p> <p>* Launching a project to study the needs of the girls by the Center for Participation of Women in 1998</p> | | |
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Part Three

Organizational Development

Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

A-B) At the governmental level, Iran has several mechanisms in place for the advancement of women. At the national level, almost all public and government organizations have a special machinery in place for the greater empowerment and advancement of women, each of the three independent branches of the country has its own special mechanisms for planning, supportive services and monitoring over the enhancement of women's status. Moreover, institutions affiliated to the office of the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran also have similar mechanisms.

One of the means of eliminating some inequalities between women and men and our success in the campaign against educational, cultural and social promotion of women depend on overcoming barriers in the way of greater women participation and their effective presence in all spheres of human and social activities. Overcoming the lack of self-confidence among many women with respect to their capabilities and resources that aggravate inequality of opportunities, lack of access of many qualified women to senior managerial positions have deprived women from gaining experiences, acquiring skills and innovative capabilities. Consequently, the society does not fully benefit from capabilities of women.

Strengthening national mechanisms for women's advancement may cause promotion of socio-cultural conditions and appropriate legal commitments for the country's utilization of women's potentials and competence in high decision-making levels and management positions. Enhancing organizational rank of the highest government bodies responsible for women's affairs in the Judiciary from a bureau in the president's office to the Center for Participation Women. The presiding official in this Center is a member of the Cabinet.

The official structure of the organizations in charge of women's affairs in the country has been depicted in the attached chart. The given structure only included the organizations that have been registered. All executive organizations have a representative in the Center for Participation of Women in order to coordinate their inter-organizational activities. Also the Ministries of Guidance and Islamic Culture, and Energy, the Foundation of Martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, and the Mustazafan and Janbazan Foundation have their advisors at the CPW that supports the government in women affairs as the highest organization. (Please refer to the appendix)

In the light of its two-year experience and given the existing problems in the provisions regarding the implementation of Article 158, (third development plan) the CPW proposed that the budget for a plan on the expansion of socio-cultural participation of women be envisaged under the budgets of executive and academic centers. The proposal was taken into consideration by the planning and Management Organization and with the approval of the parliament was incorporated into the 2003 budget.

The plan envisaged under provision no. 30228 of the budget law encompasses all functions and affairs that can be bracketed within the definition of women affairs.

With the approval of this plan, the budget of the women affairs increases by 226 percent in 2003 compared to 2002.

C) As a support organization within the government, the Center for participation of women (CPW) is duty-bound to identify and discuss the problems of women and offer solutions to their alleviation through executive organizations. Established in late 1997, the CPW aims to make policies and plans and coordinate, supervise and monitor the activities of the Executive with regard to women's affairs.

Given the fact that the outlines of government policies on women have been envisaged in the Article 158 of the Third Development Plan, the major thrust of the CPW is to implement the said article with the cooperation and coordination of other executive organizations.

According to the executive statute of the Article 158 of the Third Development plan, the CPW is duty-bound to identify the problems of women in the following fields and make the necessary coordination in order to solve those problems and offer proper solutions for their removal and also follow up their implementation through the concerned organizations.

- 1- Women educational affairs,
- 2- Women cultural affairs,
- 3- Women economic cooperation,
- 4- Women legal affairs,
- 5- Expansion of Women non-government organizations (NGOs).

The Center tries to follow up the planning and execution of necessary programs on women's affairs by concerned organizations related to the Article 158 of the aforementioned plan.

According to the executive statute of the said article, all executive organizations must submit the report of their measures in the said fields to the Center for Participation of Women through which they are funneled to the Cabinet. This process is followed in a more comprehensive manner within the framework of the Forth Development Plan.

- There have been some plans and policies for capacity building and equal employment of men and women, particularly for boys and girls to change their prototype attitudes and behaviors regarding the gender roles and responsibilities, which include highlighting the gender issues in the major plans. This is particularly obvious in 24 articles and clauses of the Fourth Development Plan. One of the main objectives of the plan is to achieve gender-based justice through creating job and education opportunities. Also there are some measures to attract the contribution of men in the implementation of projects related to the rights of women and their participation in the analysis of the gender-based issues, hygiene of fertility and gender planning. (For more explanations see Part one).

- With regard to creation of indexes, despite the fact that statistical figures have been garnered for definition of the indexes, still this trend has not reached the target stage, that is, creation of indexes. The main challenges with regard to the facts and figures are the following:

- 1 – Lack of proper statistics in certain areas and total lack of statistics on violence against women.
- 2 – Lack of gender-based statistics on the wages and shares which are necessary for the calculation of poverty (this is a major area with the lack of statistical figures).
- 3 - The statistics are incomplete in the field of media and environment.
- 4 – There are also some gender-based statistical vacuums in the health sector.

It is necessary to mention that the framework for the collection of data and the information about specific issues and subjects that the statistical offices in the state departments need are almost similar. The Statistical Center of Iran (every four months) and the State Planning and Management Organization occasionally organize some meetings to uniform the data collected by these organizations.

Part Four

Challenges and Basic Measures to Overcome Them

1 – In the field of globalization, due to the fact the women do not enjoy equal power, wealth, status, and information, a number of women still do not utilize modern information and communication technology in an effective manner. The female poverty, limited access and opportunities, lack of computer knowledge, and the hurdles regarding command of international language, have all prevented some segments of women from utilizing these technologies. Providing facilities to all women to utilize the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is one of the major measures of our country to be taken in the near future. The allocation of the necessary funds for the implementation of the TAKFA (Empowering the Application of ICT) Project is among some of the said measures.

2 - The Iranian laws on the protection of the children, particularly the girl-children, need to be developed. Therefore they should be given priority in the future.

3 - AIDS/HIV: Within the framework of a joint project, the Research Department of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) and UNFRA, conducted a research on HIV/AIDS in four areas of the country.

The project follows a multidisciplinary approach to prevent STD/HIV in four areas of Iran with different distribution patterns. It is noteworthy that for the first time after the Islamic Revolution, the MOHME has been conducting a study among vulnerable groups in one project area. Using known vulnerable groups as key informants, the study has revealed some interesting facts. A major finding is the relatively low knowledge of vulnerable groups about HIV/AIDS and other STDs. These findings may be unutilized both for consultation purposes concerning the need for identification and education for high risk groups and for the development of educational materials for this group and its potential users.

With respect to incorporation of STD programs in Islamshahr, all MOHME guidelines of prevention and management of STDs were distributed to the private sector.

This activity was conducted to encourage private physicians and midwives for more collaboration with government health centers. In Tehran, training courses were held to increase knowledge and awareness of volunteers, newly-married couples and traders and shop and shopkeepers about KH with emphasis on STD/AIDS.

4 – Inability of the women organizations to meet all of their demands is one of the major challenges in the way of the fulfillment of government's pledges, which leaves its impact on the women's life. The restructuring of the women organizations on the basis of their current needs and requirements will be among the measures to be taken in the future.

5 – The prevalence of negative, prototype attitudes towards women, stemming from the universal patriarchal attitudes is another challenge which requires reform and modification of gender-

based attitudes. This issue will be followed up to bring about the necessary changes in the media and the textbooks.

6 – The privatization policy in the field of healthcare has hampered the supply of low price healthcare services to the low-income strata, including the women. This will seriously threaten the health of the women.

7 – The international problem of the infra-national organized crimes, such as human and drug trafficking, have also targeted the Iranian girls and women. There is a dire need to take serious measure to fight these crimes.

8 – Overall there are some serious challenges in all arenas of women's life, which require more effective reforms and planning.

ANNEX 1

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE CENTER FOR WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

STEPS FORWARD

A Glimpse at Some Rules and Laws on Women in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, revision and amendment to the laws and their adaptation to the requirements of time and space as well as enactment of laws required to restore the rights of the women have been on the agenda of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Some of these endeavors have born fruit and some are underway while the process is still going on. Some of these activities include: The activities of the Women Fraction in the Parliament in setting up a group to review the Civil Code in the Research Center of the Parliament; those of the High Council of Juridical Development in setting up a group to review the civil and family codes; and those of the Center for Participation of Women in undertaking a project on the amendment to the Comprehensive Legal and Juridical System for Women. According to the Clause C of the Article 158 of the Third Five-Year Development Plan, the center has been entrusted with the responsibility to prepare the necessary plans for facilitation of legal and juridical affairs related to women and follow up each case through channel of responsible organizations (through organizing joint research activities with the related organizations affiliated to the Judiciary).

The plan has been drafted and includes three parts: theoretical foundations of women's rights and the necessity to review them; a study of various aspects of women's rights; and suggesting proposals and solutions to reform them. The plan is in its final stages.

In this section attempts have been made to allude to the laws and rules enacted or reviewed over the past few years and also explain the cases which – due to the application of some concepts and terms – have lent themselves to diverse or contradictory readings and interpretations. Also the judicial procedures in the courts have been explained in this section.

*** Article 115 of the Constitution:**

“The president should be elected from amongst the religious and political *rijal* [men, figure ¹ who enjoy the following qualifications....”

Today, the prevailing and accepted interpretation of the term “religious and political *rajul* (man, figure)” in commonsense is: a renowned and efficient political figure - including man and woman. In Arabic language too the word *rajul* connotes the same understanding. The reasons forwarded for the disqualification of the women candidates in the last presidential elections indicate that their disqualification was not because of their gender, but because they were not qualified from other points of view.

* Amendments to the Laws on Judgment by Women

- According to the Clause 5 of the Amendment to the Law of Divorce enacted in 1992, the Special Civil Court is authorized in special cases to appoint women judicial advisors from amongst the women who are qualified for judgment.
- The amendment to Clause 5 of the Law on the Annexation of Five Clauses to the Law on the Qualifications of the Judges of the Justice Department (April 4, 1996): Clause 5: “The Judiciary Chief is authorized to employ the women - who enjoy the qualifications of judges of the Justice Department enacted on May 4 1982 - with a judicial status as advisors in the State Administrative Tribunal and Special Civil Courts and also as Investigating Judge and judge of the offices of legal studies and enactment of judicial laws and the office of the tutelage of the minor, and consultants at the legal and other offices which have judicial positions.”
- Also according to the Clause 3 of the law of allocation of a number of existing courts to the courts falling under the Article 21 of the Constitution (Family Court), enacted on July 30, 1997, as much as possible each family court should investigate its cases with the presence of a woman judicial advisor and its rulings be issued after consultation with the women judicial advisors.”
- Finally Article 7 of the law of amendment to some articles of the public and revolutionary courts enacted on October 20, 2002 reads: “The Family Courts as much as possible should study their cases with the presence of a woman judicial advisor with the judicial status and their advisory viewpoints be sought by the head of the court before issuing the final ruling.”
- With regard to the Article 1117 of the Civil Code, according to which “husband can prevent his wife from a profession or a job which is detrimental to the interests of the institution of family or the dignity of the wife,” the practical procedure of some of the courts is that they rely on the Article 18 of the Law of Protection of Family enacted in 1974 which has not officially abolished, according to which: “... wife can also ask the court for a similar decision and in case no problem will be created in the income of the family, the court bans the husband from employment in such a profession.”
- Article 1133 of the Civil Code (November 25, 2002) according to which “husband could divorce his wife whenever he decided,” has been revised as follows: “Husband can lodge a lawsuit with the court for the divorce of his wife in accordance with the conditions envisaged in this law.”

Clause: “Wife too can ask the court for the divorce according to the conditions envisaged in Articles 1119, 1129, and 1130.”

It is pertinent here to mention that the practical procedure of the courts before amendment to this article was such that they did not merely issued a divorce verdict as soon as husband demanded the divorce without studying the case. Divorce ruling demanded its specific conditions and had to go through its necessary stages.

- Amendment to Article 1041 of the Civil Code enacted on November 5, 1991 and its clause enacted on June 22, 2002 and also setting the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys:
- “Marriage contract for girls before completing the age of 13 (solar years) and for boys before completing the age of 15 (solar years) is subject to the consent of the parents provided that the court recognizes the expediency of the marriage.”
- Announcement of the viewpoints and decrees of some jurists and religious scholars with regard to enhancing the age of puberty of girls from 9 to 13 lunar years.
- Amendment to the Article 1107 of the Civil Code regarding the items of adequate support for the wife (*nafaqah*).
- “Adequate support (*nafaqah*) includes all the customary requirements, consistent with the wife’s lifestyle such as lodging, clothing, food, furniture, healthcare and treatment charges as well as servant if she has already had or if she needs servant due to specific needs or handicap or illness.” 3
- Amendment to the Article 1110 of the Civil Code regarding the provision of the necessary support to the wife during the waiting period (*iddah*) after the death of husband (November 25, 2002:
- “During the waiting period after the death of husband, the expenditures for the management of the life of spouse, if demanded, are paid from the properties of the next of kin who are duty-bound to provide the adequate support (if not paid).
- Amendment to the Article 1130 of the Civil Code and determining the cases of distress and constriction of women (July 20, 2002 by the State Expediency Council).
- Revision of the Clause of Article 638 of the Islamic Discretionary Punishments Law enacted in 1996 in Chapter related to the fines regarding the offenses against public morality and dignity and change of the punishment of flogging to imprisonment and cash fine.
- Amendment to the rules and regulations of employment in the Law Enforcement Forces on the basis of which women are employed in campaign against social vices with regard to the offenses of women and also management of prisons (1998).
- Amendment to the Article 1173 of the Civil Code and annexation of Clause 2 to it regarding the determination of the examples of moral corruption and carelessness of parents in custodianship of the child (1997).
- Amendment to the Article 3 of the Law of Dispatch of Students to Foreign Countries (enacted May 15, 1985) and elimination of the clause 1 of the said article on March 5, 2001 as follows: “Dispatch of students who are university graduates or postgraduates to foreign countries will be based on the admission capacity of the domestic universities, the availability of foreign exchange, and the required and absolutely necessary courses by taking

into consideration the contents of the Article 18 of the Passport Law enacted on March 1, 1973 and its amendment enacted on August 14, 2001. The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology determines these cases every year. In case of equal conditions, priority is given to the married applicants.

- Studying the amendment to the law and regulations regarding the right of mother to the custodianship of the children (up to the age of 7) by the State Expediency Council.
- Studying (by the State Expediency Council) the approval of adequate payment to the wives for the years of married life after the death of their husbands.
- According to a clause annexed to the Article 3 of the executive notification on the encouragement of breast feeding, the sick leave of the pregnant women is not deducted from their delivery leaves (October 20, 2002).
- Enactment of the law of half-time employment of women enacted on November 30, 1983 and amendment to the same law (April 8, 1997).
- Enactment of the conditions set by bride at the time of marriage contract on the basis of the Article 1119 of the Civil Code (1982).
- Enactment of the payment of dowry on the basis of current values (with annexation of two clauses to the article 1082 of the Civil Code) May 25, 1997.
- Enactment of a law giving the right of custodianship of the minor or sick children to the mothers (June 27, 1985).
- Enactment of a law to provide necessary support to the women and children who do not have any caretaker (November 15, 1992).
- Enactment of the bylaw of the center for the rehabilitation of particular women (1992).
- Amendment to the rules of divorce and entitlement of wife to adequate payment in case the husband asks for the divorce (November 19, 1992).
- Enactment of a law on the allocation of some of the existing courts to the courts falling under Article 21 of the Constitution (family court), July 30, 1977.
- Enactment of a rule lifting ban on admission of girls to some university courses (April 1, 1989).
- Suspension of the punishment of stoning to death and its replacement with other punishments (2002).
- Amendment to the Article 120 of the Civil Code with the aim of making a distinction between growth and maturity and determining the minimum age of growth for the girls and

boys (boys are grown up after the age of 15, while the girls are grown up after the age of 13, unless it is proven otherwise) (9003).

- Approving the Fourth Development Plan in which attempts have been made to compensate the inattention or lack of attention to women in the First and Second Development Plans. Also attempts have been made in the same Plan to institutionalize gender-based approach to women.
- Approval of the law of protection of children and adolescents which aims to protect the below-18 youth and rehabilitate the juvenile delinquents and also announcing that any kind of child-teasing will be entitled to punishment by law(2003)
- Approving an agreement for cooperation in the fields of women and family between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tunisia.
- Approving the allocation of annual budget to all approved activities in the field o women affairs and their cultural and social activities.
- Approval of a law on the donation of fetus to the infertile couples (2003).
- The underway projects and plans:
 - The bill on the abrogation of the Article 82 and reformation of thee Article 81 of the Law of Social Security, which aims to block the elimination of payment of pension to the children of an insured mother after her death.
 - The bill of adding one clause to the Single Article on granting leave of absence (without payment) to the official employees when their spouses are on mission to foreign countries.
 - The bill of amendment to the Articles 1121, 1122 and 1123 of the Civil Code on the handicaps leading to abrogation of marriage (given the possibility of their treatment, some of the cases have been specified and it makes it obligatory that at least two specialist physicians as well as the Forensic must approve the handicap).
 - The bill of approving medically mandatory abortion (in order to safeguard the health of mother and take care of the fetus).
 - The bill of amendment to the Articles 946, 947, 948, and 949 of the Civil Code according to which a woman are entitled to inherit from all heritages of her spouse and there is no limitation in inheriting from the movable and unmovable items.
 - The bill of settling family disputes which has 26 articles looking after the following issues: investigation, legal court, judgment, wife's employment, the certificate of lack of conciliation and cases for its application, custodianship of the child, and meeting the child after divorce.
 - The bill of banning any gender discrimination in admission of students at all public and private universities in all educational programs.
 - The bill of formation of the High Council of Family (in order to materialize the objectives envisaged in the Article 19 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and arranging for the necessary plans and policies to consolidate the foundations of the family).

- The Center for the Participation of Women is trying to remove the hurdles in the way of joining the Convention on the Elimination of all Kinds of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and also is trying to get it approved by the related bodies. The bill on joining the convention was approved by the Parliament in August 2003.

Printed in June 2003

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