

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**Statement by Ambassador Nasrollah Kazemi-Kamyab
at the 42nd Session of the Commission for Social Development
Agenda items 3a & 3b
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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and other members on your elections to the Bureau of the 42nd Session of Commission for Social Development. I am sure that under your guidance and leadership, this session of the Commission will be successful in its deliberations on the important issues of its agenda. I would like to associate my delegation to the statement made by the representative of Qatar on behalf of the G77 & China. I should also like to thank the Secretary General for his very informative reports under agenda items 3a and 3b.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation consider the discussion on the priority theme of this year of crucial importance. There is no doubt that an efficient public sector paves the way for the advancement of the society towards sound and balanced development in the social, economic and environmental fields and ensures equitable access of the most marginalized and vulnerable parts of the society to the basic social services and protection. The policies aiming at enhancing the efficiency of the public sector should be strengthened by the joint efforts of the government, judiciary and parliaments in a coordinated and coherent manner. Needless to say, in the absence of a solid regulatory foundation, legal and judiciary procedures in support of its implementation and enforcement, an efficient public sector cannot be achieved. Furthermore, relevant policies need to be integrated in the long-term and strategic planning of the countries. At the same time,

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formulation and enforcement of anti-corruption law by the government, public awareness raising, enhancing transparency in the work of the public sectors, informing public opinion and polling their views on the way that the public institutions are providing services to them, application of the invisible methods of control of the public servants and establishment of the system of incentive are among measures that enhance the efficiency of the system. In addition, improvement of the efficiency of public sector without a creative, dedicated and well-educated managerial class seems completely illusive.

Being aware of the centrality of improving the performance of the public institutions, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken various steps towards this goal by adopting series of performance-based indicators for the ministries and public-sector servants, formulation of anti-corruption and anti-discrimination measures with the objectives of preserving human dignity, poverty eradication and social justice, within its previous long-term and strategic programs and very recently in the document called; Twenty-Year Horizon of Iran. Moreover, the Government, in drafting of the 4th Five-Year Development Plan, has already been integrated those objectives and measures.

Mr. Chairman,

The report of the Secretary General on the theme is very rich and elaborative document. Specifically, Part II of the report is successful in tracing the impacts of the policies and programs of the international financial institutions as well as the implications of globalization on the socio-economic conditions of developing countries and consequently on the performance of the public sectors in those countries. We fully concur with the Secretary General that international trade agreements including TRIPS especially those agreements related to the liberalization of public services such as health, have wide implications for the effective functioning of the public sector. In fact, trade has pivotal role in generating sufficient resources for development in particular social development. Therefore, for the countries that have not equitable share in international trade, it is hard, if not impossible, to improve the public sector efficiency and allocate adequate resources to social development. Thus, an effective public sector that lays down a sound foundation for sustainable social development would greatly be flourished by an enabling international environment, based on the rule of law and the principles of dialogue, equity, non-discrimination, transparency and participation.

Ensuring complementarity among various social services, as stated in section III of the report, is imperative. However, the elements of complementarity, supportiveness and coherence should govern the functioning of the entire system and development programs, if the development is to be continued in a sustainable manner. This will improve the effectiveness of the public sector in the delivery of social services, avoid duplication and overlapping and save resources.

In regard to section IV of the report, care should be given to the fact that countries have different conditions and priorities. The successful experiences of a country or an organization in the social field cannot necessarily be considered as the solution for another country. That is particularly true with regard to methods of financing public social services that vary from a country to another based on their conditions and priorities. On privatization, while public institutions are still considered as the best and most reliable source of the delivery of social services in many parts of the world, governments need to steadily pave the way for increased participation of the private sector through establishing the enabling regulatory environment for which the public interest is its main objective.

Mr. Chairman,

Conclusions and actions proposed in the report of the Secretary General on the preparation for the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 has are positive steps towards the better observance of the Anniversary. However, these proposals could be strengthened by active involvement of relevant United Nations bodies in elaborating the consequences of poverty, drugs, and unemployment on the stability and sustainability of family in different countries. In our view, expansion of the consultation centers that can provide advice to those in needs would be of great importance. These centers could also facilitate provision of necessary social protection for women and girls, as the most vulnerable groups, of the society. In this regard, the Government has given specific consideration to this issue and invested extensively in the education and health sectors with particular attention to the women and girls. We strongly believe that these measures would contribute effectively, among other things, to the preservation of the family as the central and basic unit of the society. In this context, the role of the pro-family NGOs and participation of civil society is crucial to the improvement of the situation.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the proposed Supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (SSREOPD), we thank the Secretary General and the Special Rapporteur for their reports. This is an issue of considerable importance for the Commission and many countries around the world. We generally consider the summary and proposals of the Secretary General in his report contained in document E/CN.5/2004/4, useful and pragmatic. We recognize the importance of five areas that is indicated by the Special Rapporteur as the main gaps and shortcomings in the Standard Rules. Nevertheless, it seems to us that paragraph 18 of section B of SSREOPD may pose further burden on countries that are serving the huge population of refugees over a long period of time, as it may lead to obligations beyond the international agreements and norms. On Section C, D, E... we generally content with the proposals of the Special Rapporteur. But we do prefer to have a more holistic approach to disability by addressing its root causes as well as the measures through which this issue could be dealt with efficiently. We believe the situation of disabled persons in the emergency situations as well as the wide spread disability, as the result of natural disasters, requires particular attention. Although disability prevention has been referred to in the Standard Rules there is a clear need to assess the methods that prevent disability from its scratch. This is an area which the contribution of biotechnology and genetic engineering becomes self-evident. In this context, there should be more emphasis to the role of science and research, technology and equipments within and among countries, in tackling disability. Last but not least, in enumerating the different groups of disabled persons, those disabled persons as the consequence of chemical materials should also receive particular attention since their disability may not be evident in many cases and torturous.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.