

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

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Fifty-Third Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

**Agenda Item 3: Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the
twenty-third special session of the General Assembly**

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to see you as chair of the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Meetings of the Commission are indeed precious opportunities for identifying challenges confronting women and to draw plans and innovations for solving women's problems and dealing with their empowerment worldwide.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to have active participation in international conferences on the basis of constructive interaction. Ever since the Islamic Revolution, the country has constantly faced discriminatory behaviours such as economic sanctions and cultural and political pressures in particular related to the status of women, from certain countries.

Despite all these political pressures, the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to have effective participation in international community and share endeavours to promote the global opinions on women's human dignity and values, and at the same time it believes that it would be impossible to rely on one certain criterion for promotion and improvement of women's status. To solve out the problems it would be better to take a more general approach towards social and individual issues including both men and women and to formulate appropriate strategies instead of dealing with gender issues from a separation perspective.

It appears that today, after decades of a mere domination of separation approach in women's issues, objectives of the Beijing Plan of Action have not been achieved as anticipated, and the twelve critical areas of concern on women's issues have failed to meet the goals mainly for two following reasons:

First: governments are involved with variety of issues based on their own particular priorities, and second: the emergence of issues such as human trafficking, economic and morality crises and military invasion and occupation and so on which have jeopardized the global security. One blatant example of these emerging issues is the Israeli regime's genocide against women and children in Gaza and the war crimes perpetrated by the said regime in all occupied territories. Almost all fundamental principles of human rights and humanitarian law in particular the Human Rights Declaration and the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 have been grossly violated by the Israeli regime through its massacring of more than 1330 Palestinians including 437 children, 110 women, 123 elderly, injuring 5500 Palestinians and devastation of 321 infrastructure centres and demolition of more than 6000 houses, displacement of 26000 Palestinians and deprivation of tens of thousands of civilians from drinking water, and fuels. Civilians also have been targeted by prohibited and unconventional weapons including white phosphorous bombs by the Israeli occupying regime.

The current economic and financial crisis is yet another international crisis which is unprecedented in recent years. Political injustices have in practice paved the grounds for the emergence of economic injustices imposed by economic powers which systematically have subjugated their hegemony over the world through maximizing their capital.

The only practical solution for the current crisis would be a change in the basics of global economy to be founded on political justice orientation as well as to change the economic dialogue and to move towards morality instead of profit orientation and to determine legal strategies for controlling economic bullying which have irreparable impacts upon women and children.

Mr. Chairman,

Parallel to the advancement of women in many fields in the past three decades in Iran, a concise model has been developed to improve status of women in all sectors of society. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes in gender equity for establishing an appropriate and adequate status for women, and to achieve this goal it has adopted the 'Charter on Women's Rights and Responsibilities' with emphasis on three areas namely, 'Morality', 'Justice' and 'Security' inspired by religious and cultural ethics of our nation.

This document has more effective and concise approach for dealing with women's issues in Iran and transcends the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as provisions of the latter conflict with the law of our country.

After the Islamic Revolution in Iran there have been significant improvements in the society for both men and women and due to special attention given to women to compensate the pre-revolution backwardness there were positive growth in all areas which have led to women's presence at the decision making levels in various educational, health and political as well as economic areas.

The results of such efforts have been an 18% growth in education, 30 % growth in girls' NGOs, as well as growth in the women literacy rate from 48.5% to 86% and 100% medical coverage for families in the rural areas and promotion of health indicators within the country (low mortality rate to as far as 0% in 9 provinces, reduction of 20% maternal mortality rate and reduction of 12 % infant mortality rate). Also the remarkable success of the Islamic Republic of Iran in controlling the HIV AIDS disease to less than 1% of the total population has been admired by the international authorities .Among these only less than 6% of the AIDS patients are women. The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken effective measures to control this disease through four areas of prevention, treatment, counselling services and post treatment care, all free of charge .It is noteworthy to mention that since the main reason for prevalence of AIDS disease within the international community is not only the AIDS virus but in fact lack of ethics and morality and lack of moral commitment, therefore, another solution for uprooting this disease completely besides medical health care facilities would be to return to moral principles within in all human community.

Mr. Chairman,

It is worth mentioning that since family and health supports are part of the major development approaches in Iran, therefore, one of the most significant goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to secure family integrity and provide cultural and economic grounds for alleviating social problems through strengthening this sacred institution.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran women participate actively in the society without undermining or neglecting the family. Women are recognized as the pivotal axis of the family which is considered as a major figure in the society. Since a society is formed of integral components of families, thus women are known to be the main trainer in the society. We

believe that by introducing a new model for the contemporary women who with chastity and dignity as well political insight and full responsibility shared with men towards her community and yet devoted to family and its upbringing, would be able to help raise a new civilization.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that by studying the problems and challenges in various moral, politico –cultural areas and by designing a joint criteria among nations for eliminating the flaws in the present documents and by drawing a new and efficient model with emphasis on differences in religion, nationality and ethnicity the world would succeed in achieving a global consensus in solving women’s issues.

In conclusion, I would like to appreciate activities of the relevant bodies of the United Nations for holding this session of the Commission on the Status of Women while I should mention that this is for the first time after four years that women representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been issued visas to participate in such gathering at the UN Headquarters and we hope that rights of all member states to attend the UN conferences to be respected.

Thank you

