

Islamic Republic of
I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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Intervention by

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General Discussion of the CSW56

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000; gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

New York, 23 February 2012

Constitution of

the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 104 and 105 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 104

Article 105 of the Constitution

Article 106 of the Constitution

Article 107 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 108 of the Constitution

Article 109 of the Constitution

Article 110 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 111 of the Constitution

Madame Chair,

First, I would like to congratulate you again as the chair for the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I am assured that through your good disposition the outcome of the session would lead to fruitful results. I would like also to reiterate that since neither meeting has been granted any special status, it would be a great honor for the presence of H. E. Ms. Maryam Mojtahedzadeh, advisor to the President and Head of Center for Women and Family Affairs.

Madame Chair, Excellencies Ladies,

The Islamic Republic of Iran maintains that the promotion of women's rights and their empowerment in its all aspects is a prerequisite for the comprehensive development in any community. Therefore, this session of the Commission on the Status of Women is an adequate opportunity for the high ranking representatives of the governments to formulate the most suitable approach in this regard and chart ways to address the problems and shortcomings faced by women at national and international levels and to take the essential steps in reviewing the previous strategies in promoting their status.

According to the inspiring school of pure Islam, the horizon is open towards woman and her rights. This view is based on respect and dignity to various individual, family and social aspects in terms of equality, and justice in relations, human rights, and social activities. This viewpoint is based on the features and capacities of woman which can lead to the development of society.

We believe that family is the basic unit of human community and a family oriented approach should be followed for unlocking the true and an essential element for advancement spirituality and justice. It is from this perspective that the IIN bodies especially the Commission on the Status of Women should re-evaluate their strategies and recommend steps regarding the integrative and comprehensive advancement of women.

Madame Chair,

We are of the opinion that the movements of the women in the Middle East and North Africa is an extensive movement based on pure Islamic awakening features by the real widespread participation of women in the struggle. It is the objective of these movements is restoring the women, who are defining the objectives and a bright future for their own countries. The women in these regions are carrying a huge burden of their own dignity, power and honor and

morality which have been trampled for years by despotism, racism and foreign interventions. Have any attempt to achieve this axiomatic goal to be against the will of people is doomed to fail.

Madame Chair,

The critical situation of women and children in the occupied territories of Palestine and the crime of violence perpetrated against them is undoubtedly one of the gravest tragedies in current history. The continuous human tragedy in the Gaza Strip is a massive violation of international humanitarian law and demands the Commission on the Status of Women to deal with the main root cause of the issue of Palestine within the framework of the continuation of foreign occupation in this territory.

Madam Chair,

It is a right that men and women are equal in respect to dignity and human rights. This right is not to be confused with equaling men and women's role in society and in the development process. Hence, we believe, equality, complementarity and justice go well with giving complementary role is part of the basic concepts of the role of men and women in society.

Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always paid special attention to the issue of women and the promotion of their status within the framework of Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Hence, in the follow up to the General Declaration adopted in the third Women Conference of OIC in Tehran, Iran in 1997, my country was also the host for the international conference titled "The Environment Justice of the Divine Religions" participated by the ministers and senior officials of the OIC member States.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken many initiatives, such as identifying women issues as a priority by across cutting issue and mainstreaming their status across all sectors in all stages of the policy process. Accordingly, in addition to raising of awareness, capacity building and training activities, my government has attempted to respect the gender perspectives in the policies and development processes envisaged in the national development plan. For this purpose, within the national development process, especial focus is made on the empowerment of women including by promoting education and capacity building in every ministries and national political and economic machineries.

Recently in implementing the article 24 of the 5th National Development Plan, the Center for Women and Family Affairs together with other relevant ministries and organizations has attempted to formulate comprehensive national development plan on women and family affairs.

Additionally, the National Women and Family Committee is established to ensure the principle ten of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the aim of strengthening the sacred family union and family member relations based on Islamic principles and virtues. The Head of this committee is composed of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the head of the women's branch from the Parliament (Islamic Consultative Assembly).

In the same line, various policies, researches and activities with the aim of rural women empowerment. Regular skill and technical trainings offered to rural inhabitants with the aim of empowering them to deliver services and cooperate in the industrial activities, to improve the quality of products and improve their talents for entrepreneurship at micro, small and medium scale levels have had been seen fruitful progress. Offering of loans, credits and improving the social insurance funds.

In this regard, my country has prepared a report on the strategies, policies, plans and achievements in the Islamic Republic of Iran for the empowerment of rural women, which will be submitted to the Secretariat of the CSW in the coming days.

Madame Chair,

I am proud to share some of the remarkable achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the advancement and empowerment of women:

- 1- Today in the Islamic Republic of Iran the life expectancy rate is 76.14 % for women, more than 96.8% of women are engaged in the age group 15-74 years and there is a rise of over 126% within the past three decades. In 1990, 51 % of state university admissions were women having a growth rate of 100% in 20 years ago. The number of women faculty members is over 110, 173. The women's employment rate in 2011 was 82.7%.
- 2- While the Islamic Republic of Iran stands first in the science and technology and holds 15th in the world, the Vice-President for Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a woman and she is also the head of the National Foundation which aims to support scientists and female researchers in the areas of research and technology.
- 3- The rate of women's participation at decision making levels has increased remarkably. Currently, four women are members of cabinet ministries and there are four vice ministers working in the government...
- 4- One of the organizational posts in each ministry is allocated to women in women and family affairs. Thus, on the adoption by the cabinet of the advisors on the women and family affairs also enjoy the right in decision making.

...ing for the Islamic Consultative Assembly, has increased 7
times in comparison to the first term and the elected members have doubled. Also the
number of women members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly at the national and provincial levels was
1,491 in the sixth term, showing a growth rate of 34.4% as compared to the first term.

6. Equal pay for equal work for men and women, the increase in the number of women
physicians in many fields, increase in the number of women in various fields of research,
the establishment of entrepreneurial cooperatives for women, supporting female headed
households, the establishment of women's trade unions, supporting the rights and women
athletes, increase in the number of NGOs are all among the achievements paid for the
empowerment of Iranian women.

To conclude, I wish for a just, secure and peaceful life for every woman working
nationwide in the world.

Thank you, Madam Chair.