



Permanent Mission of The  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Geneva

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Kazem Gharibabadi  
Deputy Secretary General for the  
High Council for Human Rights  
Islamic Republic of Iran**

**the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of Human Rights Council  
Iran UPR Outcome (Geneva, 19 March 2015)**

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

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me to address the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Right Council on the adoption of the outcome of Iran's second Universal Periodic Review.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, inspired by its religious democracy founded in the Islamic values and principles, strongly believes in human rights and respect for human dignity and firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. This pledge and

commitment is deeply rooted in our society's rich historical, religious and cultural heritage.

From the very early days of establishing the UPR mechanism of the Human Rights Council, my country has spared no effort to ensure the successful realization of its upright objectives. This prestigious civilized model of cooperation has been devised to serve as a workable platform to address the human rights situation of all Member States on an equal footing, based on objective and reliable information and in a transparent, non-selective, constructive, non-confrontational and non-politicized manner.

**Mr. President,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran, encouraged by the rich experiences gained from the implementation of the accepted recommendations of the first cycle of the UPR, has devotedly participated in the second cycle with a constructive approach and much greater willingness to embrace the recommendations we have received.

At this juncture, allow me, Mr. President, to express my appreciation to all countries that participated actively and constructively in the second cycle of Iran's UPR and presented recommendations on the basis of principles guiding the UPR mechanism.

Accordingly, Iran received 291 recommendations from member states during this process. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran considered these recommendations with great attention and interest, communicating them to the relevant institutions for conducting extensive consultations with stakeholders, including the civil society and non-governmental organizations and discussed and evaluated all of them with a great sense of cooperation and engagement.

As a result of these reviews and consultations, I have the privilege to announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran has extended its support to 189 recommendations in their entirety or partially. It should be underscored that a considerable number of the accepted recommendations have been already implemented or are on the process of implementation. It is also worth of mentioning that we have accepted some recommendations partially in the light of their substantive importance though the wordings and presumptions deployed for them have not been in an appropriate and well-fashioned manner.

At the same time, I am confident that you will endorse the experiences of other countries for not being able to accept a number of the recommendations they have received as they may either contradict with their international commitments or infringe their constitutional laws and regulations, bearing in mind the importance of the principle of cultural diversity as the sources of

mutual enrichment in the context of international human rights law. It is against this background that, from legal standpoint and like many other countries, we have not been in a position to render our full support to some recommendations in spite of their full and thorough examination by my government. With regard to this type of recommendations, I would like to inform you that we have extensively elaborated our positions and comments on these recommendations in our response as submitted.

**Mr. President,**

A number of recommendations we have received, have addressed, in one way or the other, Iran's cooperation with the UN human rights mechanism. In this regard, I would like to emphasize that in addition to our full and constructive engagement with the UPR mechanism, Iran has extensive cooperation with other UN bodies working in the field of human rights. As a case in point, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made consistent efforts to actively participate in the reporting mechanism of the United Nations. Within the timeframe of 2010 to 2013, we presented our periodic reports on "International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" (9 August 2010), on "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" (October 2011), on "International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" (May 2013), on the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" (2013) and first periodic report on the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (December 2013).

My country has also initiated a new round of interaction with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and presented some proposals and projects for the expansion of cooperation in a mutually agreed framework. Besides, we have invited the High Commissioner to pay a visit to Iran. Very recently, we have sent an invitation to a thematic Rapporteur to visit our country in 2015 and it is our intention to send one more inviting another thematic Rapporteur. This is in addition to the seven thematic rapporteurs that have already visited Iran and I presume you concur with us that this is a good record of accepting thematic rapporteurs in comparison with other countries experiences.

To add more in this context, Iran has responded adequately to the communications of Special Procedures, based on our policy to respond to all relevant communications as a part of our responsive engagement and cooperation with the international mechanisms.

Notwithstanding the fact and principled position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the appointment of the country specific special rapporteur, we have had several rounds of discussion with the Special Rapporteur on Iran in Geneva and New York, and responded to the issues raised in his communications.

**Mr. President,**

Iran's approach to human rights is comprehensive. Alongside with political and civil rights; economic, cultural and social rights are also accorded great importance. We are pleased to highlight that Iran has made tangible and substantial successes in all these areas of human endeavor despite many challenges we have been faced. All citizens of the country, both men and women, equally enjoy the protection of the law and enjoy all human, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

Here, I would like to briefly touch upon some issues raised in the recommendation.

**First, on the statues of women and their rights in Iran;** on this issue I should say that since, the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, great achievements have been attained in promoting the status of women. Due to time constraint, I just refer to their statues in higher education. Close to half of university students, that is more than 2 million, are women. More than 75000 university instructors and members of faculty are also women. Also, more than 31,000 women are working as administrative and executive personnel of universities.

**Second, on the freedom of expression and opinion;** In Iran activities of media and freedom of peaceful assembly have always been protected. The Constitution clearly enshrines freedom of publications and Press Law guarantees these freedoms. There are

presently 6100 publications registered in Iran. Close to half of this number is published, of which 214 are newspapers, and 813 weekly magazines. News agencies, specialized news agencies and news websites amount to more than 400 titles. Distribution of more than 30% of publications is local (cities, province and neighboring provinces). Of this number, about 1000 publications, close to 17% of the national total, are published in different provinces, mostly in local languages or dialects. Over the last year, 130 publications were published in various fields by women as the chief editors. It is noteworthy that in 2013 more than 66,000 titles of books were printed.

**Third, on political participation;** Article 26 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran permits formation of parties, societies, political or professional associations, as well as religious societies. There are more than 230 political parties with different orientations, 400 professional associations and trade unions and 60 societies from religious minorities.

Article 27 of the constitution stipulates that public gatherings and marches may be freely held, provided that arms are not carried. More than 17,000 community-based organizations have received permits to operate in areas such as human rights, social rights, charitable endeavors and environment and animal rights.

High-ranking officials of the nation are elected, directly or indirectly by the votes of people. Over the past 35 years, 32 elections have been held to choose presidents, members of Assembly of Experts, representatives of the Parliament and city and rural councils.

**Mr. President,**

As we look back, going through the history of its function, we can conclude that the UPR has rightfully provided a unique opportunity for all to review human rights achievements and to listen to the viewpoints of others including the distinguished member states and the representatives of the civil society. Throughout this process and taking stock of its achievements, we have been determined to make the best use of this occasion to enhance the national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights.

I would like to conclude at this stage by reaffirming the determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran to build up its society underpinned by its national and religious values, while continuing adherence to our international obligations. We call on all countries to continue their efforts with a view to strengthening and elevating the UPR mechanism and to be concerned about such efforts which may undermine the credibility of this paramount mechanism. I am confident that your valuable



comments and inputs will enrich our today's discussion, strengthen the constructive dialogue and mutual understanding and foster the genuine and constructive cooperation and interaction as the foundations for better promotion and protection of human rights worldwide.

**Thank You Mr. President**

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