

Iran

Statement by
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High Level Segment
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Peace and Blessing of God be upon all great prophets from Abraham to Moses and from Jesus to Mohammad , who devoted their entire lives for promotion and safeguarding human dignity and peace and well-being of humanity

Mr. President,
Mr. High-Commissioner,
Distinguished dignitaries
Dear colleagues,
Ladies, Gentlemen,

It is an honor and privilege for me to address this august Council today. At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, let me felicitate you Mr. President as well as Members of the Bureau upon your election as office bearers of this Council and offer our support to you and, also to the high commissioner for human rights, in the discharge of your respective mandates during your tenure. As with your distinguished predecessors, we are confident of working together in ensuring that the noble objectives of the Council are met.

Mr. President,

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the international Covenants as major components of international system to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms which affords us with inimitable opportunity to promote those ideals and moreover to evaluate the achievements as well as challenges ahead.

As celebrating the Council's 10th anniversary, we should also seize the moment to reflect on the body's achievements, shortfalls and future challenges, and, where necessary, to set down changes so that the Council can fully and effectively play the role ascribed to it within the human rights apparatus. We must

also remain mindful of the reasons for its creation and avoid repeating mistakes of the past.

One of the issues that has not received due attention and recognition in the past decade, which marks the first ten years of the life of the Council, is the crucial and pivotal role of democracy in promotion and safeguarding human rights. We firmly believe that the second decade of activities of the UN human rights council should be stapled with the concerted efforts towards democracy for the promotion of the human rights.

In this connection, it is quite hard to imagine a system of governance which deprives its citizens from the very basic and minimal rights to participate in shaping their destiny and at the same time to claim adherence to human rights and its promotion. Unfortunately, self-proclaiming flag leaders of human rights promotion, mostly support such regimes as close allies, totally ignoring the responsibility which they bear on their shoulder by joining the basic international human rights documents

Mr. President,

To tackle most properly the shortfalls of the past decade, the Council should also respect the right of each State to organize and manage its affairs including in the field of human rights and guard against falling in the trap of selective country spotlighting, which we have seen time and again to be counter-productive. The need of the hour is to consciously ensure that the Council continues to function in a non-selective, non-politicized, non-confrontational and transparent manner while avoiding double standards.

Hence, it is imperative that the Human Rights Council remains a credible and independent arbiter in dealing with global human rights situations bearing in mind that the universality of human rights does not and should not overlook the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds.

Therefore, it is incredibly crucial to pay heed to the fact that the moral standard that summons us here and unites us in common action does not belong to any one nation, continent, and set of standards, religion or culture. Indeed, human rights are common heritage of humanity which have been initiated and developed by valuable contributions of all civilizations and cultures.

From our point of view, universality of rights should not be construed as uniformity of values and systems. Exclusion and exclusivism cannot be the answer to extremism, and collective measures cannot take the form of coercive and intrusive steps. Consequently, the Human Rights Council is now at a critical juncture to convincingly demonstrate its ability to address human rights challenges and help to overcome difficulties arising from certain mistrusts with collateral damage on the whole human rights system.

In this regard it is worth to be noted that over the course of two cycles of operation, the UPR has evolved into a crucial mechanism for non-politicized, non-selective and non-confrontational discussion among peers. However, there is ample room for further improvement in the current mechanism. For that reason, promotion of human rights, along with individual state's efforts, requires collective commitments and willingness of all states to cooperate and to listen and learn from each other, and to respect diverse cultural heritages and traditions.

Mr. President

In our globalized world, in which threats recognize no borders, violent extremism, given its nature, continues to spread in contagion and to implicate regions near and afar. A tidal wave of refugees and migrants swamping Europe and tens of thousands of terrorist foreign fighters, moving between the region's hot spots and their own societies, are indicative of the rapidly globalizing nature of this crisis.

No member of the international community can feel safe from the fallout of the crisis in our region. As the threat is global, thwarting it, too, requires a serious, well thought-out and coordinated global effort. Such effort can't be successful if we continue to be mired, as usual, in the swamp of power politics. It requires a new mindset away from the old paradigm of exclusion governed by a zero-sum mentality that has produced negative sum outcomes.

Hence, we once again call for a United Front against Violent Extremism and propose to draft a Comprehensive Plan of Action on how to proceed. This is imperative, especially in view of the persistence of the threat, the appalling humanitarian consequences and the fact that the present Coalition is failing to achieve its goals.

This Plan of Action should also address the continued occupation of Palestine and the Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people over so many decades, which have fueled extremism and other crises in our region and beyond.

Mr. President,

The Syria crisis is at a pivotal juncture. From the start of the Syrian crisis, Iran's position has rested on four pillars: respect for the wishes and free will of the Syrian nation to decide its own destiny and to manage its own affairs; opposition to foreign interference geared to impose the wishes of outside actors on an independent people; respecting the independence and sovereignty of Syria and rejection of terrorism as a tool to achieve political objectives.

Based on these pillars, Iran has always insisted that there is no military solution to the Syrian crisis. Only ballots - not bullets - can ultimately usher in a new era in Syria. To this end, Iran has consistently advocated an immediate ceasefire and an end to the bloodshed; dialogue between the Syrian government and the opposition groups who reject terrorism; a concerted and genuine international effort to uproot extremist violence; and a global campaign to address the humanitarian catastrophe now, and to rebuild Syria once the flames of war subside.

Mr. President,

I want to seize this opportunity to report to the august meeting of the Council that during the last week, in the Islamic Republic of Iran, we just finished two important national elections: the elections of the Council of Experts on Leadership and the elections of members of the 10th parliament. The Council of Experts on Leadership has the responsibility to endorse or refuse the mandate of the leader and hence persistently seized by the matter.

Also the Parliament of our republic is among the most powerful assemblies in democratic systems, all the laws should be passed by the parliament, the cabinet members should be endorsed, the power to impeach the president and to investigate all aspects of governmental activities are among the responsibilities of the elected body

Recent elections with over %60 participation of eligible voters are among other things a clear indication that the current social and political experience of our nation which began by the historic victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979 is

marking high success in all aspects: scientific and technological advances as well as cultural and civil structure of the society

Here I should emphasize the importance of the achievement which is not confined to our nation, but affecting the whole region as well as the Islamic world. Being a democratic polity based on Islamic rationality rather than secular-liberal rationality it offers the people of the Islamic world a new option: to reform their society, they are not obliged to choose between secular-liberal democracies or sink into extremism. Now a new model for public sphere is emerging: representative democracy based on Islamic rationality

Mr. President,

To conclude , let me just underline that the Human Rights Council, entrusted with an historical and critical mandate for the actual promotion and protection of human rights on a global scale, can indeed rise to the challenge through relying on the cherished principles of objectivity, impartiality, transparency and consensus. In this context, we recognize that there can be no freedom from fear without freedom from want. Neither can be realized without an enabling environment for freedom to aspire.

A holistic and integrated approach that recognizes the inter-dependence, inter-relatedness and indivisibility of all human rights including the right to development should be at the centre of our collective efforts in promoting and protecting human rights. The future we want and the future we deserve can become a reality only if we uphold the inalienable right of every person to development and create an equitable and just international order for its full realization.

Finally, convinced that the best approach to promote and protect human rights across the globe is to engage in a meaningful and sincere interaction and cooperation, we look forward to continuing our close cooperation with the Council and its members to realize our shared objectives of attaining greater global justice, equity and development through the enhancement of all human rights for all.

Thank you, Mr. President.

