

**Statement by the representative of  
the Islamic Republic of Iran  
On the Report of Ms. Yakin Erturk,  
The Special Rapporteur on the Violence against Women, its Causes  
and Consequences  
20 March 2007**

Thank you Mr. President

I would like to thank Professor Yakin Erturk, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences for her objective and comprehensive report. We very much value the report and we are of the view that the work of the Special Rapporteur greatly contribute to the enhancement of the rights of women around the world. We also express our gratitude for the visit of the Special Rapporteur. The observations and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur have been taken seriously in Iran. Having said this I would like to emphasize the fact that ~~enhancement and advancement~~ <sup>planative</sup> of the rights of women will be strengthened and consolidated by fair, realistic and forward looking attitude on the part of International Human Rights Mechanisms.

~~A great deal of discussion and debate at the international level has been and will be addressing the issue of women's status around the world including in Iran. It must be said that instead of examining the real situation in the global community tend to point against picture of discrimination of the women in the other societies. It is in this context that the role of the Special Rapporteur becomes essential as an impartial arbiter to open a~~

window to the United Nations Human Rights system to show what ~~women of the world~~ *women of the world* have achieved over last couple of decades, by way of strength, optimism and courage and what challenges lies ahead to be overcome and to go forward.

The issue of women and their role in Iran has been on the agenda of every political, social and economic macro management policy of the society in the last couple of decades. A persistent campaign of awareness raising, norm setting and institutionalizing the rights of women initiated and tirelessly followed by state and non-state factors, has brought about the present situation where the issue of women has become one of Iran's most watched and thought about issues in the daily life. Women's role in all aspects of life in today's Iran could not be ignored in any decision making process.

Every effort to understand and analyze the situation of women in Iran must take into consideration positive developments such as emerging civil society and active female students, journalists and lawyers and ratification of a number of legislations to promote and protect the rights of women. Of course no one can claim to be perfect and there is always room for improvement.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we are of the view that expanding the role of the women in all ~~concerns~~<sup>aspects</sup> of the Iranian society is a noble goal that has found its well deserved position in our strategic social, cultural and development planning and its realization is holistically pursued as a matter of priority.

I thank you Mr. President