

NEW

Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran

**Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights
16th session of Human Rights Council
3 March 2011**

Mr. President

At the outset, I would like to express our gratitude to Madam High Commissioner and her Office for all their initiatives and efforts taken to enhance the capacity and technical capabilities of OHCHR for fulfilling the purposes and principles of international human rights instruments and to encourage all member states to promote and protect human rights.

We firmly believe that the credibility and coherence of Human Rights Council and other international human rights organs, as well as, confidence of states on the work and functioning of the United Nations human rights system, so much depends on the technical efficiency, professional competence and credibility of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mr. President

Our contemporary world faces serious and formidable challenges, which make developments unpredictable and unprecedented. Challenges which have been touched upon in the report of the High Commissioner are the facts and realities of our era and persistently have affected the life of ordinary people, all over the world. Poverty, discrimination, inequalities, problems of vulnerable groups and depriving them of their fundamental rights including migrants and indigenous peoples, racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and rising of food prices can severely damage stability and security of countries, regions and even the whole globe.

Interconnection of challenges and approaches to deal successfully with the mounting challenges, make the collective

responsibilities of the international community. In this regard, we welcome and support recent initiatives of the OHCHR on Middle East developments as well as in Africa, Latin America, Central Asia, and some other parts of the world.

Mr. President

We appreciate the activities of the OHCHR to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) as well as to mark 2011 as the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the International Year for People of African Descent. We are of the view that such commemorative events should be designed with a view to make a difference on the ground.

The High Commissioner in her statement has also referred to discriminatory practices that are targeted against those who are discriminated on the basis of their sexual orientation. We would like to emphasize the fact that such grouping has not been universally recognized.

Mr. President,

We believe, that enhancement of international cooperation is an irreversible and vital necessity for promotion of human rights worldwide. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran has launched various initiatives, inter alia, holding 18 rounds of bilateral human rights talks and convening several technical meetings on judicial issues the most recent of which was a judicial colloquium jointly held by the Iranian Judiciary and the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in December 2010.

Finally, we welcome the visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Iran which will take place this year and hope that this visit would enhance meaningful cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the office of the High Commissioner. **Thank you**