

Statement by
the Islamic Republic of Iran
before the 3rd session of the Human Rights Council
on the Progress Report of the Working Group on the Implementation of
Operative Paragraph 6 of the GA resolution 60/251
"Special Procedures"
Geneva, 5th December 2006

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

My delegation notes ^{with appreciation} the preliminary conclusions ^{which in fact should be called facilitator's} on the special ^{progress} procedures. We shared our view with the working group during its ^{report} current session. The ^{conclusions} seem to be a summary of discussions ^{that hardly} reflect the different views expressed during the session in a balance manner. However our preliminary views on ^{conclusions} are as

^{advice} the following:

[✓] - The Human Rights Council should have a straightforward and direct role in the election of the mandate holders. ^{hardly a} ~~The~~ election would not undermine the independence of the mandate holders. In contrary it will reduce politicization, and will bring more transparency to the system.

- We believe that the mandate holders should not serve more than one mandate at the same time.

[✓] - In addition to impartiality and equitable geographical distribution, the mandate holders should represent different legal, cultural and religious backgrounds.

- ✓ - The need to remove the country mandates from the system of mandate holders as the main cause of politicization and confrontation in the CHR. ✓
We all know there are different possibilities of looking ^{into} at the country situation including through the UPR which will enable us to review of human rights situation in each country in a non - selective manner. There is also possibility for the Council to hold special session for gross and systematic violations of human rights requiring urgent attention.

- ✓ - The review shall aim at improving the balance between both sets of rights including right to development.
 - Possibility of merging some mandates along with unification of terminology and titles of mandates deems necessary.

- ✓ - The relationship between all of them should be within a conceptual framework rather than going into the details of the mandates.

- ✓ - We are not supporting the relationship between the system of the mandate holders, the UPR and the complaints mechanism.

- ✓ - We support the direct accountability of the mandate holders to the Human Rights Council. In this regard the HRC shall look into the establishing of a review mechanism of the mandate holders individually and collectively.

- ✓ - The need for the Human Rights Council to scrutinize the functioning of the mandate holders based on the principles set out during the review process.

✓ - The principle of impartiality requires that the special procedures should be financed through regular budget. Also transparency in allocation of resources to different mandates by the OHCHR and financial assistance of countries to the special procedures mainly when they are planning for a visit deems necessary.

✓ - Personnel dealing with special procedures should be long term and regular, independent, qualified and pre - trained, taking into account the equal geographical distribution.

✓ - Format of the urgent appeals and other communications shall be standardized and unified. Criteria should be established for sending urgent appeals.

✓ Finally, the manual operation of the special procedures and the code of conduct for mandate holders should be approved by the Human Rights Council.

Thank You