



*Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the UN - Geneva*

Chair of the NAM



In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

No 2050/2989

Excellency

I am writing this letter, in my capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to draw your kind attention to the position of NAM in reaction to the request of the COI on DPRK to "display a video clip as part of the presentation of its report to the Council on 17 March 2014" as follows:

1. The Human Rights Council, in its resolution A/HRC/RES/22/13 of March 21, 2013, "Requests the commission of inquiry to present ... a written report to the Council at its twenty-fifth session". Accordingly, any departure from the previous established practice and changing the way of presenting the report in any other format, including by displaying a video clip, the content of which could not be easily verified, is a substantial matter which needs a deliberate decision by the Human Rights Council. We are of the firm belief that, the Bureau's role which has been defined in the Rules of Procedure is confined to the procedural and organizational matters. Therefore, such request should be brought to the attention of the Human Rights Council and its member states for their consideration and possible decision.
2. The Rules of Procedure of the HRC was adopted in a time that the digital tools were existing, but there is no reference, neither explicit nor implicit, to any digital format of report presentation in the said rules. In fact, the Rules of Procedure of the HRC has been keen to ensure that the written format would not be replaced by any other format that may lead to ambiguities and complicate the proceedings of the Council. There is a need, therefore, for firm understanding among all member states on how to proceed to keep this process legally sound and consistent.
3. Furthermore, as elaborated by the Secretariat during the meeting of February 25, 2014 between the Bureau and regional and political groups coordinators, the only similar case has been the displaying of video clips by some member states upon their request and initiative during the first cycle of UPR. This precedent, along with longstanding practice of the Council, indicates that such presentation needs, in particular, the consent of the concerned country. At the same time, we should bear in mind that, other requests for displaying a video clip by member states in other instances, in particular with regard to the specific

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situations, have been rejected. Therefore, the request of COI on DPRK should not be endorsed so as to avoid raising any question challenging the consistency and credibility of this august body.

4. In the light of the above, the NAM is of the view that such an attempt runs counter to the cause of human rights and the main objective of the HRC, i.e. promotion and protection of human rights through enhancement of international cooperation and dialogue rather than using the Council in other ways which will jeopardize the validity and credibility of the council; hence, it should be strictly avoided.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Ambassador, Permanent Representative of I.R. Iran

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