

Islamic Republic of
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Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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Statement by

H.E. Mrs. Fatimah Ajorloo

Member of Parliament of

The Islamic Republic of IRAN

55th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

On the agenda item 2:

“Follow up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the 2nd Special
Session of the UN General Assembly”

New York, 24 February, 2011

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On the agenda item 5:

"Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: Implementation of the Platform for Action"
Session of the UN General Assembly

New York, 27 January, 2011

In the name of God, the Commission for Women

Madame Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you as the Chairperson of the 55th Session of the Commission. I would also like to extend my congratulations to other members of the bureau as well as the secretariat delivered by the distinguished representative of Argentina on behalf of the C77 and China.

Madame Chairperson,

The promotion of women's human rights and dignity and their empowerment are prerequisites for development and fair societies. The Commission's sessions are ample opportunities for exchanging opinions and views related to women for adopting the required strategies and interventions. At the same time, global decisions and policies adopted in the area of women's issues and strategies in some cases, have been one-dimensional, prescribing a single remedy for all societies. Hence, they have failed to remove the obstacles and challenges women facing at global level.

Today's World bears witness to the dire emergence of new challenges and crises which profoundly impacts the process of development and the advancement of women. These new changes signify the important role of the present Commission in identifying and examining the challenges and crises such as those of the economy, environment, military interventions and occupation, state terrorism, transnational crime, lack of vitality and the pursuit of justice.

It is therefore, that the Commission on the Status of Women should adopt a complementary approach towards gender issues involving men and women are complementary to one another in the mold of interdependence and as such are essential in

human survival. This die should not be carelessly considered when legislating crafting laws. Neglecting the central role of women in the management of family and society while attempting to compare them with men in the world of work without due attention to their natural rights and responsibilities on one hand and their similarities and differences on the other, would lead to disregarding their rights and responsibilities and their discrepancies as well as their similarities and ultimately derailing from the real path of the advancement of Women.

The Islamic Republic of Iran while paying serious attention to the promotion and advancement of women has made gender justice as the basic strategy for providing sustainable balance of its efforts to identify the real factors undermining the rights of women away from any sort of exaggeration. The comprehensive model for Iranian women based on Islamic values has been the guiding principle of the decision-making bodies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and as such "the Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Women" with emphasis on spiritual, justice, security and advancement has been ratified by legislative bodies of the country. The context of this document is more comprehensive cross-cutting and goes beyond the relevant international instruments.

Madame Chairperson,

The establishment of the UN Entity for Women is a big step towards the long process of reform of the United Nations Organization. The UN Women should only become efficient and universal when it bases its support for women and its adoption of strategies and future policies on recognizing and respecting the cultural, national and cultural diversities of diverse societies and nations while exploring ways and means of an ideal localized model. Moreover, UN women should and attempt review the past trends in the world in order to address the needs of women with an aim to identify the key elements of the basic measures while being accountable to the member States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran was pleased to be the front runner of the new UN Entity for Women. While appreciating the report of the Executive Director contained in the document "UN Women: A New Chapter in the History of Women's Empowerment" the element of equitable geographical distribution be fully respected bringing the representatives from all geographic

regions in, so to truly empower an entity with a complete understanding of the cultural sensitivities of various societies. Equally important for the new entity is paying urgent attention to the women living under foreign occupation or those whose wonder apprehensions are affected by state terrorism.

Madame Chairperson,

The aggravated status of women and children in the Occupied Territories of Palestine and the violence perpetrated against them is undoubtedly one of the greatest tragedies of history faced by women in the contemporary era.

The policies of the occupying power in the Gaza strip area, creating through building the wall and erecting Check points have led to the imprisonment of all Palestinians in particular, the inhabitants of the Gaza strip. Women and children comprise the highest number of victims. Based on the report of the UN Secretary General entitled "the status and assistance to Palestinian Women" contained in the document E/CN.4/2011/6, the humanitarian situation in the occupied occupied Palestine has worsened and it continues to be in the alarming situation.

It is disappointing that the report has overlooked the root causes of today's situation of Palestine which is the continuance of foreign occupation and its direct and negative impact on the Palestinian women and children. Also are denied the responsibility of the occupation situation. Numerous the violations of the UN Charter has also neglected the extreme violation of one of the human rights and the international humanitarian law due to the long term siege over the Gaza strip by the occupying power. The international community of international aid conveys to this region. One expects that the Secretary General would consider the above mentioned points in his future reports.

Madam Chairperson,

Providing fair access of women science, technology, territorial skills and their participation in the scientific and technological education ensures women's full participation in the production and application of science, technology innovation and management. Hence, their societies to fulfill the scientific and technological needs for development. The elimination of discriminatory

considerations to the transfer of science and technology from developed countries, recognizing the rights and capabilities of the developing countries in having access to modern science and technology and in facilitating the advancement of women.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has included in its main policies a comprehensive approach to the production, acquisition, transfer, localization and commercialization of technology with the active participation of Iranian women. To this end, as part of a national policy planning, The National Elite Foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been established to identify, assist, guide and offer financial and moral support to the scientific elites, in particular the young women researchers in the research and technology sectors.

Dr. Amirhossein Khatami, former Deputy Prime Minister of Iran was appointed an Iranian female university professor as his deputy for science and technology. Today, the female students comprise a remarkable percentage of participants at scientific festivals and Olympiads. Currently, support to establishing women's scientific societies and enhancing scientific and research facilities to attract women scientists and elites are part of the national policies of the country.

Madame Chairperson,

The advancement of women is one of the cultural, social, economic and political life of Iran. It is a priority for the Islamic Republic of Iran in all national policies, legislation and decision makings. Since the Islamic Revolution, the indexes related to women have seen a considerable growth in the areas of development, education and research, science and technology, justice, security, and health. Moreover, women have participated in all development, planning and implementation phases. It is noteworthy to mention that the main approach of Iran's development policy focuses on strengthening the family and strengthening, empowerment and safeguarding the wellbeing of the family. In our view, the social priority is to maintain the family as the main focus of attention.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to some of the significant achievements gained by women in the Islamic Republic of Iran:

The growth in the education and literacy level in the area of research, science and technology with the following indexes as examples:

- a) Gender justice index, the rate of literacy among population of 6 years of age and over which equates with literacy of that of men, has reached 89 % in 2008 and has risen to 90 % in the year 2009.
- b) The rate in scientific and research articles published by women members of scientific boards in the last decade has reached to 49 %.
- c) The enrollment rate of girls in primary schools, had reached to 98% in 2009.
- d) The considerable growth in the rate of health indexes and the decline in the mortality rate among children and infants than AIDS.
- e) Providing means for economic development and appropriate job opportunities in public, private cooperatives sectors and creating home and distance working conditions.
- f) Growing rate of management levels from middle and high levels in the Education Ministry from 20 % in 2003 to 30 % in 2008.
- g) Increase in the rate of new women participation at high management levels as the boards are formed in the cabinet. There are 14 women in the cabinet, 10 women in the ministry and other high management levels.

Thank you.

1- Growth in the education and literacy level including more of women's literacy and technology with the following women's literacy.

a) Gender justice index: the rate of literacy among populations of 15 years of age and over which was 65% in 2002 and reached 90% in the year 2009.

b) The rate in scientific and research articles published by women members of scientific boards in the last decade has reached to 49%.

c) The enrollment rate of girls in primary schools has reached to 98% in 2009.

d) The considerable growth in the rate of birth control and the decline in the fertility rate among mothers and curbing the AIDS.

e) Providing means for economic development and opportunities for opportunities in private companies and creating more and creating more and creating more working conditions.

f) Growing the management level with the rate of 30% in 2002 to 90% in 2010.

g) Increase in the rate of women's participation in high managerial levels as currently there are four women in the cabinet. There are also a number of women as deputy ministers and other high management levels.

Thank you