

Check against delivery

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

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During the Panel discussion on integration of gender perspective
in the work of the Human Rights Council
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Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Panelists,

At the outset, I would like to thank all of you for your contribution and appreciate this opportunity for exchanging views and perspectives on such an important dimension of the Human Rights Council with a view to reform and to renew and possibly to consider integrating gender perspective in the HRC.

The Islamic Republic of Iran anticipates a need for substantive consideration of the Gender Issue by Member States in more technical consultations before the Human Rights Council might move in the time remaining to decision-making mode.

We are of the view that numerous consultations among Heads of State and Government, Cabinet Ministers, and Parliamentarians are required in order to formulate a comprehensive future-looking approach. What we glean more than anything else from these exchanges is a great sense of urgency, immediacy even. Those who are politically and managerially responsible for addressing serious and pressing challenges of economic and social development would be eager, indeed impatient to have a United Nations Development System that is more efficient, more coherent, and therefore, more effective in meeting the needs of their peoples, in line with their own national strategies particularly with regard to Gender issues.

The analysis of the work of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and Gender Unit of OHCHR indicates important gaps in the areas of coordination and coherence, authority and positioning, accountability and human and financial resources. The new initiative of integrating gender issues in Human Rights Council's work should address the said shortcomings.

One of the pertinent issues our discussion today would be the gender justice and women's empowerment which has broad and indeed universal relevance to all States. With regards to Gender Justice and the Empowerment of Women, it ought to be possible for the HRC in the current 9th Session, to make a conceptual breakthrough by pointing the direction it wishes to take in changing the institutional architecture of the HRC System. The ultimate objective would be to improve delivery by the System of the many important and pressing mandates which member States together have conferred on it yet delicate, technical points are required to be considered.

Finally Madam Chair, I would briefly pinpoint the remedies to the severe challenges women and girl children are facing in today's world, as follows:

1. To take into account the impact of family strengthening on the elimination of violence against women and in crime prevention.
2. To undertake strategies, develop policies to eradicate women's poverty in family and in society at large.
3. Emphasizing the role of chastity (modesty in dress) on strengthening crime prevention to eliminate violence against women and girl children.
4. To respond to the special requirements and vulnerabilities of women within the criminal justice system, such as women in detention, pregnant female inmates and children born of women in detention, girl children's right to enjoy correctional institutions, women prisons, appropriate cultural, educational and training facilities in prisons.
5. To devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of slavery and trafficking in persons to counter demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims and bring perpetrators to justice.
6. To take appropriate measures at the national, regional and international levels to improve the quality of life and achieve gender justice and empowerment of woman in the field of crime prevention.

Thank you,