

**Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran
before the 4th Session of the Human Rights Council
On the progress report of the Working Groups on the Institutional- Building of
the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 15 March 2007**

In the Name of God, the Compassionate the, Merciful

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Cuba on behalf of the NAM and Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

Mr. President,

Allow me to extend our appreciation to you and all the facilitators for guiding and conducting the work of Intergovernmental Working Groups. We are taking note of the progress report and conclusions of all working groups in second round of their exercise. These reports as well as new draft provide us a clear framework for our next stage of consultations, which would hopefully lead us to a tangible result. At this stage, my delegation would like to share some views about the way we look at the ongoing process for reviewing and developing the Council mechanisms.

We are convinced that the best approach to the timely fulfillment of the task entrusted upon the Council and avoiding the ambiguous circumstances which may prevail if the mandate is not accomplished prior to 18 June 2007, is to ensure that the remaining time would be utilized in the most efficient manner towards the completion of the Council's mandate as was underlined by the Member States at the time of the adoption of the establishing resolution 60/25. Indeed, it is a cause of concern as it appears, ~~maybe keep~~ that some ~~try~~ ^{may be kept} to prolong the review and institutional – building process and bring back the failed practice of the past.

The CHR, despite its rich legacy, ultimately undermined its success by the politicization and double standards. Therefore, my delegation deems it instructive that the trust of the Council and its reformed and new mechanisms should be cooperative and enhancing capacity building, not punitive measures.

Relying on a fully universal approach, we firmly believe that the Council and its mechanism particularly the UPR and the Complaint Procedure should be able to address the violations of human rights by all countries, having implications within and outside of national borders.

We commend the positive achievements of the Working Group on the UPR. However, we are somehow concerned over the slow pace of progress with regard to the process leading to the review of mandates.

~~We consider the UPR as one of the most positive features of the GA resolution 60/251. It is our sincere hope that the UPR will enable the Council to review situations of human rights in all countries. It is of critical importance to ensure that, the UPR does not lead to a process similar to what used to happen under the Item 9 of the CHR.~~

The main objective of the UPR should be the elimination of political selectivity and double standard which undermined the credibility of the CHR. The UPR should be designed in a truly universal manner. It is therefore, essential that the UPR outcome should be adopted in a consensual manner, with the same format for all, and with the consent of the country under review.

Coming to the modalities of the UPR, our preference remains for a review in the Council plenary so as to ensure maximum transparency ←

Mr. President,

In the interest of predictability, accountability and transparency, a well – structured agenda should already be in place when the Council begins its second year. A balanced agenda which ensure all human rights are treated on an equal footing requires inclusion of the issues such as right to development, foreign occupation, and defamation of religions.

Due to the gravity and the long – standing violations of the human rights of the Palestinians, still suffering decades of foreign occupation, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that the Council continues to be seized of this question effectively.

We maintain that the special procedures should focus on thematic human rights issues. The Country mandates under item 9 of the old CHR should be removed from the system of mandate holders as the main cause of politicization and confrontation. We all know there are different possibilities of looking into country situations including through the UPR.

We do not share the view that the Council should start its work from the beginning on its rules of procedure and method of work. As a subsidiary body of the GA, the Council rules of procedure should be based on the GA rules of procedure.

Finally, my delegation look forward to continuing the substantive discussion on the new papers presented by facilitators on the UPR, Expert Body, Complaint procedure and Review of Mandates with a firm determination to successfully complete the mandate of all respective Working Groups.

Thank You