

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by: Mr. Mostafa Alaei
Director of Department of Human Rights
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On

Agenda Item: Agenda item 71(b):

"Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms"
(Globalization and its impacts on full enjoyment of human rights)

Third committee of UNGA

New York October 31, 2005

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

"Globalization" has acquired considerable attention in the international fora. While some view it as a process that is beneficial to the future economic development in the world and also an inevitable and irreversible phenomenon which has offered positive opportunities, others believe it as a threat against equality within and between nations that can aggravate poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, cultural homogenization and economic disparities along racial and cultural lines.

It is a matter of fact that globalization offers extensive opportunities for truly worldwide development, however it is not progressing evenly. In the globalization process, world trade and financial markets are becoming more integrated and consequently economies of many of developing countries stagnated or declined due to these global integration policies, their poverty increased and high inflation became the norm.

Furthermore, the role of the private sector is of vital importance in the enhancement of overall development. In a globalized world there is a need for private sector to become more involved in a responsible and accountable manner. Corporate social responsibility and its impact on poverty eradication, full employment and social integration should be recognized. However, the development of such criteria in a global world requires a broader assessment of threats and opportunities in process of globalization and more balanced agreements among government, private sectors and stakeholders worldwide. Multilateral institutions have a unique role to play in meeting challenges and opportunities presented by globalization and it is necessary for these institutions to recognize, respect and protect all human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

Many critics fear that globalization, in the sense of integrating countries into global society will exacerbate, in particular, gender inequality worldwide. Women could be economically harmed - especially in the South: through discrimination in favor of male workers, marginalization in unpaid or informal labor, exploitation in low-wage sweatshop setting, and culturally through loss of identity and autonomy to a hegemonic global culture.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to bring to your attention that in the absence of a comprehensive framework based on the fundamental principles of human rights, globalization and its potential risks may harm the world and nations as well as human rights in general. Therefore, globalization still will continue to be a serious challenge unless its benefits are maximized through enhanced international cooperation to increase equal opportunities for trade, economic growth and overall sustainable development. Globalization can be made fully inclusive and equitable only through wide-reaching and sustained cooperation based upon our common humanity.

Finally, globalization should be guided by the fundamental principles that underpin the corpus of human rights, such as equality, participation, accountability, non-discrimination, at both national and international levels, respect for cultural diversity, tolerance and international cooperation and solidarity.

Thank you Mr. Chairman