

FARAH  
HEJAZI

Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran

18<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council

Geneva 26 September 2011

*vice*  
Madam President,

My delegation welcomes this discussion and thanks the distinguished panelists for their contribution.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is cognizant and appreciative of the international effort to integrate a gender perspective in the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, and hopes to see this goal realized within the confines of ethical considerations and the respect for women's dignity. In this context, I would like to ask:

-What role, do you think, cultural diversity should play in this process?

As for our efforts back home, I specifically refer to article 3 of the Constitution which in part refers to the responsibility of the government to guarantee equality of men and women before the law and article 20 which underlines the equality of women and men in attaining their political, economic, social, cultural and human rights. Drawing on a rich Islamic heritage, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the past three decades, has also passed numerous laws to enhance the status of women and better guarantee their rights. Prime examples would be the new women's law, and family law and amendments to existing marriage, inheritance and child custody laws.

In addition, certain privileges, including the mitigation of sentencing for women accused of non criminal offences, affirmative quotas for women in certain medical fields, early voluntary retirement, and financial aid for women heads of household have been devised to favor women.

Thank you Madam President