Islamic Republic of
IRAN
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
on Agenda item 68: Rights of Peoples to Self-determination
before the Third Committee of the 68th Session of the UNGA

New York, 4 November 2013

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to express its appreciation for concise and wide-ranging report, contained in document A/68/318, submitted by Secretary-General, outlining the relevant jurisprudence of the HRC and the CESC on the treaty-based human rights norms relating to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, as well as providing a summary of the developments relating to the consideration by the Human Rights Council of the subject matter, including by its special procedures and the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

During the reporting period, as has been the case in the previous accounts, all above mentioned mechanisms in one way or another reaffirmed the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to live in freedom, justice and dignity, and to establish their sovereign, independent, democratic and viable contiguous State. Also, it has been urged that all Member States and relevant bodies of the United Nations system to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination.

Despite these affirmations and recognitions and those stipulated in the numerous United Nations mechanisms’ outcomes, within more than 6 decades, Palestinians are still deprived of their natural rights to exercise self-determination on their own territory. In spite of international outrage and clear demands through UN machinery and different
international fora, the flagrant violation of human rights and international law by the occupying power still continues unabated in the Palestinian occupied territories.

Regrettably, the Israeli regime continues to defy these rights and perpetuate massive violations of human rights of Palestinian in the occupied Palestinian territories including killings of innocent civilians, arbitrary detentions, collective punishments, and other restrictions against Palestinian people.

Mr. Chairman,

Consideration by the General Assembly and its mechanisms of the “Question of Palestine” is a reminder of the historic responsibility of the international community, represented by the United Nations, to support the just and rightful struggle of the Palestinian people for the establishment of a national homeland, and comprehensive and just resolution of the issue in all its aspects. However, measures so far taken by international community have been inadequate. We should act collectively to demonstrate our unqualified support to the cause of the Palestine in the one hand, and to save the image and the credibility of the United Nations on the other.

Mr. Chairman,

It is now, more than ever, obvious that the Question of Palestine constitutes the core of the Middle East conflict and without reaching a just solution to this Question, the Middle East will remain plagued by instability and tension. We believe that the root cause of the problem should be dealt with. In Palestine, like every where else, a just and durable peace could only by secured through termination of brutal occupation of Palestinian lands as well as adopting a democratic process on determining the future of Palestine in which all Palestinians enjoy their inherent rights to self determination.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.