Statement by
the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
on Agenda item 64: Report of the Human Rights Council
before the Third Committee of the 68th Session of the UNGA

New York, 13 November 2013

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken note of the report of the Human Rights Council contained in document A/68/53, submitted to the General Assembly and the statement made by the President of the Human Rights Council and would like to thank Ambassador Henczel for his assiduous and dedicated work as the President of the Human Rights Council.

Since the last session of the GA, the Human Rights Council addressed several important human rights issues on which Iran seized the chance to express its views on those important issues. We also welcomed the opportunity for dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, during the past sessions of the HRC. Iran reaffirms its support for the work and function of the High Commissioner and her Office, within the respective mandate contained in document A/48/141.

The Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to reiterate its firm commitment to an open and constructive dialogue among all member states and all relevant stakeholders on various human rights issues in the framework of the HRC, within the mandate preserved in GA resolution 60/251. In effect, we all need to continue our efforts towards making the Council, a medium of an approach based on constructive dialogue and cooperation rather than a political and selective one on all issues.
Mr. Chairman

Indeed, through establishing the Human Rights Council, we all intended to have a mechanism avoided of selectivity, double standard, and political pressure when it comes to human rights and its promotion and protection.

During the course of last year, Iran along with other developing countries, actively participated and positively contributed to the work of the Council with a view to prevent long time politicization and manipulation of the UN mechanism by a few countries.

The report of the Council includes a reference to the resolution which was introduced and adopted against my country as a product of strenuous attempts of certain countries. In our firm view, having regard to ongoing cooperation of Iran extended to various human rights mechanism of the United Nations in particular the UPR, the resolution itself and appointment of the Special Rapporteur on Iran are superfluous and unfair.

Mr. Chairman

With the flourishing recital of the first cycle of the UPR mechanism of the Human Rights Council and commencing of the second cycle, it was reaffirmed that the Universal Periodic Review constitutes a breakthrough in the work of the United Nations inter-governmental human rights activities.

The rationale behind creating of such mechanism was to ensure universality, objectivity, non-selectivity and impartiality in the work of the Human Rights Council. The real performance of this mechanism, in a logical setting, is to allow the human rights machinery to act beyond the monopoly of a few in monitoring and addressing human rights situations of the member states.

In this context, it is unfortunate that despite the existence of UPR mechanism in the Human Rights Council, certain countries reverted to the practice of the disparaged Human Rights Commission by tabling country specific resolutions in the Human Rights Council; to the detriment of healthy exercise of cooperative approach of the Council.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran's unyielding promise for the promotion and protection of human rights is genuine and home-grown which has been taken based on the noble Islamic values and procreative principles enshrined in the Constitution. Hence, despite aforementioned political attempts of particular countries, we will maintain our close cooperation with the Council to realize our shared objective of attaining greater global justice, equity and development through enhancement of all human rights for all.

Thank you,