Statement by:

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset, to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China.

My delegation takes note of the report of the SG on this agenda item which would help us to enrich our deliberations and discussions. However, we believe that the inclusion of some controversial terms in the reports of the Secretary General should be avoided in articulation of the future reports, due to the lack of support by many countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Undoubtedly, the challenges to achieving social development remain daunting. The ongoing global economic and financial crises have had serious consequences for social development and a negative impact on the progress made in realizing the three pillars of the social development. In much of the developing world, national development efforts are sagging under the weight of the global financial and
economic crisis. In particular, prospects for reducing poverty, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment, inequality and social exclusion have been undermined.

My delegation is fully committed to actively participate in the preparatory process for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in collaboration with other interested states.

The General Assembly in its resolution (A/RES/66/126) encouraged Member States to adopt holistic approach to policies and programs that address family poverty, social exclusion and work-family balance and share good practices in those areas.

Mr. Chairman,

On the rights of youths and their role in the development of the country, I should inform this august body that our ministry of sport and youths has run several national plans on the youth marriage, youth leisure time, youth partnerships and youth consultations. We also have national high council of youths in charge of policy making under the ministry of sport and youths.

On the rights of persons with disabilities we believe that their inclusion in the process of decision making through democratic processes and procedures is of high importance. Ms. Leila Barzamini, is the first Iranian woman with disability who could become the chair of the city council through election in a city called Daland in the northern province of Iran recently. This is a vivid example of participation of persons with disabilities especially women, equally with other persons in the democratic process of decision making.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is firmly of the view that the harmonization of national legislative, policy and institutional structures in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and development instruments, should be prioritized and accelerated.

With the adoption of a comprehensive legislation for the protection of the persons with disabilities in 2004 in Iran, extensive efforts have been made to mitigate the material and psychological problems of this important part of the Iranian population. Creation of a medical fund for the treatment of the persons with disabilities, providing special employment facilities, housing and sports for them are among the measures taken over the recent years.

The role that sport plays in the empowerment of persons with disabilities is another important issue that deserves to be considered by states more serious than before. Iran had ranked 22nd in Paralympic 2008 with 5 Gold medalists and could rank 11th at the Paralympic 2012 with 10 Gold medalists which shows 100 percent of improvement. During the Paralympic 2012 Mrs. Zahra Nemati, the first Iranian woman to win a gold medal at Paralympic level, was named the individual winner in Sport Accord’s Spirit of Sport awards. This award is given annually to those whose sporting achievement or work has led to positive social change.

Mr. Chairman,

Iran as a developing country is undergoing a rapid transformation in its demographic structure with a considerable rate of ageing. The percentage of older persons in Iran’s
population is now 8.2 and by the year 2028 will reach 14.5. It is also estimated that older persons in Iran will constitute more than 22 percent of the whole population by the year 2040.

The State Welfare Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran prepared a national strategic plan on aging which is to become operational by the next year.

In conclusion,

We encourages all relevant UN bodies to improve their technical cooperation with the least developed and developing countries in addressing the alarming issues on social development namely, the related issues to persons with disabilities and elderly people in a holistic approach.

Thank You