Statement by
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before the Third Committee of the 68th Session of the GA

On Agenda item 28:
  a) Advancement of women &
  b) Implementation of the outcome of the fourth world conferences on women and of the
twenty third special session of the General Assembly

New York, 11 October 2013

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me extend my delegation's sincere congratulations, to Madame
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, as the newly appointed Under-Secretary General and the Executive
Director of UN- Women. Assuring her of our full cooperation, we are confident that her
assumption would create a new momentum in the international support for the empowerment of
women throughout the world

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the advancements in some of the aspects pertaining to women’s right, much still
remains to be done at the national and international level. Poverty, social insecurity, sexual
exploitation, grave violation of women’s rights in armed conflicts, the situation of women and
children living under foreign occupation, unjust and inhumane sanctions as manifestation of
structural violence are still among major sources of concern.

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Thus, addressing these crucial issues can be a breakthrough and bring about new hopes to human society, uphold peace and security, to empower women and allow women to play the leading role.

At this moment, let me, Mr. Chairman, focus more specifically on some of the salient features related to the advancement of the status of women.

Recognition of the important role of the family as an institution is certainly an imperative for the promotion of dignity of women and the realization of their empowerment in a society. The Islamic Republic of Iran has made every efforts to strengthen the family foundations as a top priority needed for development, justice and spirituality of the society on the whole. To this end we have concentrated all our efforts to create a climate that can well guarantee the sustainability of the family foundations and the religious beliefs as a prelude for better living standards for the future generations.

It is from this vantage point that my delegation encourages the new Executive Director of the UN-Women to define the principles and objectives of her Office, on a family based approach and respect for the divine and moral values, with a special attention to the national, cultural and religious particularities of each and every nations, as the unique legacy of humanity.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are approaching 2015 mainstreaming a gender perspective in the discussions about a post-2015 development framework and sustainable development goals requires active engagement of the Member States, along with the relevant UN bodies, including the UN-Women, in all the related processes. Iran welcomes the call for gender equality and women's empowerment which includes a family based approach, as a stand-alone goal and integrated into all goals of any new development framework through targets and indicators.

In this vein, my delegation takes note of the report of the Secretary General on the follow up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the GA contained in document A/68/178.

Mr. Chairman,

In today’s Iran, women are representing as one of the best role model in the fields of science, education, health and medical, economic, trade, and production in our region.

Since almost 35 years ago, some important steps have been taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in promoting the women’s participation in the political life of the country. Increasing the proportion of women in appointed and elected positions, including at the executive and legislative levels across all sectors and ministries have placed Iran in an exemplary in our region.

The recent election in the Islamic Republic of Iran represents a clear example of the wise choice of hope, rationality and moderation by the great people of Iran including women and girls. The firm belief of the Iranian women and girls in their vital role in drawing the political map of the country, and in enduring peace and dignity, as well as reliance on the ballot box as
the basic source of power, public acceptance and legitimacy, has indeed played a key role in creating such a hopeful environment.

To prevent violence against women, a comprehensive bill on women’s security has recently been presented in the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which provides a broad definition of all forms of violence against women, and sets up a national committee for safeguarding women against violence, as well as determines the duties of all relevant executive and judiciary bodies to face violence and persecute the perpetrators even without complaints by the victims.

Additionally, the Citizenship Bill has been presented to the Parliament, prioritizing addressing the women's right. Furthermore, the first Female Spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, as well as three women Vice-Presidents in charge of Women and Family Affairs, Legal Affairs, and Environmental Affairs have been appointed by the new Government.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, the newly elected Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers women-related issues as a high priority on its agenda, with the firm belief that there must be equal opportunities for men and women, inter alia, in pursuit of knowledge, full access to education, job opportunities and other aspects of their social life.

Thank You