Islamic Republic of

IRAN

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

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before the Third Committee of the 68th Session of the GA
On Agenda item 65:
a) Promotion and protection of the rights of the children &
b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session of the GA on children

New York, 18 October 2013

In the name of God, the most Compassionate the most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to appreciate the Executive Director of UNICEF, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child for the comprehensive and informative reports that they presented to this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran as a party to the international Convention on the Rights of the Child attaches great importance to the rights of children and is committed to make every effort to further promote and protect their rights and dignity in accordance with valuable teachings of Islam and the provisions of the Iranian Constitution.

To this end, Iran has recently submitted its national periodic report on the implementation of the Convention to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Further, the newly established national focal point for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been strengthened by the establishment of four working groups in the fields of monitoring and evaluation, training, protection, legal and judicial issues. As another step for the prevention of violence against children, a complimentary mechanism has been designed under the national focal point on children rights.
As part of the judicial development process, and in order to preserve the legal and judicial rights of juveniles in Iran, the juvenile courts are mandated to hold closed, separate and individual sessions with the presence of parents, legal guardian or lawyer. Under - eighteen offensive children are not sent to prison. The Juvenile Arbitration Councils have been set up to protect the rights of children in the courts.

Furthermore, any type of torture, inhuman and cruel treatment as well as physical harassment, solitary confinement, execution and retaliation has been forbidden. Finally, a specific working group has been set up in the Judiciary to follow up on the prevention of the exercising capital punishment against children and juveniles.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the historic special session of the General Assembly on children in 2002, many commitments and efforts have been made for the welfare of the children of our planet. Despite all those efforts, the world still faces increasing challenges which target the survival, rights and welfare of our children. These challenges include armed conflict and foreign occupation, global financial crisis, extraterritorial sanctions and unilateral coercive measures, extremism, increasing rate of child abuse in cyber space, widespread underemployment and unemployment, poverty, sexual exploitation of children, discrimination and violence. The effects of these challenges on children have been further compounded by cuts in health, education and nutrition and safety and security of the children.

As we are approaching 2015, the rights and welfare of children should be placed at the centre of the post-2015 agenda, including the eradication of poverty. A post- 2015 world fit for children must be designed in which all children, in all countries, grow up healthy, well- nourished, educated and are fully protected from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Iran takes note of the report of the Secretary General on the follow-up to the special session of the General assembly on children contained in document A/ 68/269 and invites him and relevant bodies of the United Nations, including the UNICEF, to make a thorough study on various impacts and implications of imposing extraterritorial sanctions and unilateral coercive measures on the human rights of children, and present that study to the next session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

Today's children are our future generation and their rights are special in that their protection depend largely on us. Investing in our children through providing them with the compassionate family and safe and secure society is not a choice, but an obligation, of which only the effective fulfillment will secure a better opportunity for the succeeding generations.

Thank You