Statement by

Mr. Asadollah Eshragh Jahromi, Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

on Agenda Item 69 b: Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

before

the Third Committee of the 68th Session of the UNGA

New York, 29 October, 2013

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Cultural diversity is a cherished asset for the advancement and welfare of humanity at large and should be valued, enjoyed, genuinely accepted and embraced as a permanent feature which enriches our societies. Diversity can be an instrument for creativity, dynamism, improvement of social justice, tolerance, mutual understanding and international peace.

At the current session the biannual NAM resolution entitled "Human rights and cultural diversity" would be tabled. This resolution would pave the way and foster the favorable environment for a constructive dialogue on the ways and requirements to take benefit from different cultural heritage to promote the universality of human rights.

To strengthen harmony and amity at the international level, it is of high importance for the international community, to consider seriously the religious and national particularities as well as cultural diversities to decelerate the growing trends of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances which are threatening different societies around the globe.

While we reaffirm universality, indivisibility, interdependence and equality of all human rights, in reality the existing international order continued to be led by selectivity and economic and political exploitations. We believe that political considerations should not affect promotion and protection of human rights.
Mr. Chairman,

Despite many literally stress on the holistic nature of all human rights, there has been an unequal emphasis on civil and political rights. Efforts towards the realization of human rights should extend to the fight against deprivations of economic, social and cultural rights. It must be backed by a sense of solidarity with the underprivileged and willingness to translate this into concrete action.

Development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process. Although it is a matter of satisfaction that concepts of right to development has been integrated into several areas of the work of the UN system but much more remains to be done in the full realization of the right to development and it's mainstreaming in the work of the UN.

An overview of the results achieved, however, shows that despite the efforts, right to development has remained a distant goal and there are persistent implementation gap, and many unfulfilled commitments for achieving it. This clearly reflects the need for stronger political will and new legal binding instrument by developed countries to provide sustained financial support and transfer of technology, in order all have access to development as much as possible.

While no one can deny the national responsibility of states to promote the Right to Development, one cannot disregard the imperative of international cooperation essential for creating a conducive environment for the genuine realization of this important right.

Mr. Chairman,

Opposing unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures by certain States which lead to the erosion of the UN Charter, international law and human rights law, we are of the view that unilateral coercive sanctions and economic and financial sanctions should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development. In fact, the approach has been adopted by Vienna Declaration and Program of Action must be followed when we address the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights.

In this regard, we welcome the report of the Secretary-General on unilateral coercive measures regarding views and information on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on the targeted populations and also reaffirm the request of the Human Rights Council resolution that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize a workshop on the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by affected populations, in particular their socio-economic impacts on women and children, in the states targeted.

Thank you,