

Statement by

**H. E. Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Before

**the High Level Segment of
the 13th Session of the Human Rights Council**

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

Honorable Ministers,

Madam High Commissioner,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to have this opportunity, once again, to address this important forum and exchange views on the urgent and daunting human rights challenges ahead of us. This meeting of the High Level Segment, convening during the main session of the Human Rights Council, provides us with an unparalleled opportunity to consider urgent human rights challenges, which we need to deal with, in order to find sound and decent solutions for them.

Human Rights Council has been structured to be a forum for dialogue, understanding and cooperation to achieve human aspirations throughout the globe. We maintain that, the review of the Council's functions, as required by the UNGA resolution 60/251, is a great opportunity to assess its performance in order to find out its weaknesses and strengths. We need to examine the Council's functions based on main and objective criteria.

Mr. President,

Two weeks ago the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, considered the report of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in its Seventh session. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran took part in the session with the spirit of cooperation, dialogue and constructive engagement. Many delegations participated in a constructive fashion in the interactive dialogue and turned the session into a forum for exchange of ideas and viewpoints with the Iranian delegation on the way my country is genuinely

promoting and protecting human rights in its land. The session welcomed the innovative approaches of the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance the situation of the country and to fulfill the wills and aspirations of the people in all civil, political, economic, social and cultural areas. This is the real spirit which the UPR mechanism deserves to be observed. The majority of the members of the Working Group and the Observers maintained the principles of constructiveness, commitment, and positive engagement while rejecting the unhealthy and disrespectful conduct of a few who tried in the opposite direction.

Mr. President,

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a democratic system rooted in Islamic values and ideology. Within the last three decades, more than 32 elections were held whereby more than half a billion votes determined the destiny and formation of numerous parliament and governments from all political parties with different orientations. More than 40 million people comprising an absolute majority of the ballot holders cast their votes on June 12, 2009 to choose their preferred candidate amongst four final candidates running for presidency. Vote cast during the recent presidential election turned it into an exemplary exhibition of democracy and freedom.

The 10th Presidential election in Iran mirrored the efforts of a sovereign nation for an inalienable free election, its integrity and its commitment to principles of democracy and the rule of law. It also demonstrated our people's dedication to strive against the subversive foreign interventions.

Mr. President,

As I mentioned earlier we are approaching the review of the Human Rights Council. This is an important opportunity to enhance the constructive functioning of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. For this purpose, I would like to briefly highlight a number of issues of particular importance which shall be considered duly by the Council.

1- Discrimination on the basis of religion and ethnic origins has been continuing in the past several years. Muslims and certain ethnic minorities are subject to verbal and physical attacks as well as discrimination in employment and housing. They are even deprived from practicing their religious duties and requirements in public places such as observing their religious and traditional dress code.

2- Manipulation and abuse of the United Nations human rights mechanisms and machinery have become a prevalent tradition and exercise in advancing political purposes to the extent that their credibility, efficiency and legitimacy have come to question and are diminishing.

3- There is a growing trend in applying double standards by the Western countries with regard to the freedom of expression and opinions. Muslims throughout the world in general and the Muslim communities in Western countries in particular, have been the target of not only massive propaganda campaigns, but outright social castigation and open violence - all under the pretext of freedom of expression.

4- Human rights are being extensively violated by certain western countries. In those countries, indigenous citizens, migrants and refugees as well as other minorities are disadvantaged particularly in their personal income, employment, education and health. There has been widespread acknowledgement of the role of racism, discrimination and indifference in contributing to their disadvantaged situation.

Mr. President,

The international community is always witnessing a continuous spate of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and standards against the people of Palestine which have been occurred in a systematic and consistent manner in the occupied Palestine for about seven decades by the Israeli regime.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns all forms of the crimes committed against the innocent people in the Palestinian territories. We regret that despite all decisions and resolutions

adopted by the Human Rights Council the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories remains grave and deteriorating within a general climate of impunity and the Israeli regime continues to perpetuate massive and systematic violation of human rights in defiance of the Council's decisions and resolutions.

The council is in dire need of concrete actions. We call upon the international community and particularly this august body to take all necessary measures to put an immediate end to the continuation of Israeli regime atrocities against the innocent people of Palestine in the occupied territories.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to reiterate that in this crucial juncture, in which we are facing real human rights challenges, the Council relying on its establishing principles and in discharge of its historical mandate, should undertake to address global human rights challenges. In this regard, we are determined to continue our constructive cooperation with the Council for the promotion and protection of human right all over the world.

Thank you,