**Islamic Republic of Iran**

**In your view, how and to what extent has the right to development being implemented and realized, at the national, regional and international levels?**

Since three decades of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on the Right to Development, and consequent holding of sixteen sessions of the Working Group, the lack of a political will at international level has impeded the implementation and realization of the right at both national and international levels. The slow pace of the refining and revising process of corresponding criteria and sub criteria during the meetings of the working group is a typical example of this bitter reality.

Unfortunately, despite the importance of the right to development, the trend of its realization has been very slow. While most of the developing countries still suffer from negative impacts of economic crisis, the necessity for the realization of this right needs to be considered, more than ever. We firmly believe that the international community must demonstrate its political commitment and give it the high profile it deserves. In this way, We need to allocate more time on Working Group on RtD in order to follow its tasks such as preparation of a legally binding standard as mandated to the Chairman of the WG, through a collaborative process.

**In your view, what are the main obstacles to the implementation and realization of the right to development at the national, regional and international levels and what measures should be taken to overcome them?**

International cooperation is at the heart core of the implementation and realization of the Right to Development. But this required cooperation for the realization of the afore-mentioned right has been hampered by some shortages and difficulties within the Working Group as an international entity which represents diversified views of the international arena and also some clear obstacles which still exists within the international community itself. Some of these obstacles and shortages are as follows:

- The slow pace of the negotiations of the Working Group of Right to Development among relevant partners and other stakeholders on this important issue.

- The lack of an effective agenda of the Working Group of the right to development.

- The limited participation of invited experts from international organizations during the sessions of the Working Group of right to development. As the realization of the Right to Development is central to the implementation and enjoyment of all human rights, the further engagement of the relevant United Nations agencies, funds, programmes, institutions, as well as other multilateral institutions and forums, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders is highly needed.

- Existing global economic and financial order made lots of challenges and stands as the main reason for some of the harsh imbalances seen within the world which constituted the division between the developed and developing countries. Unfortunately the existing gap has been profoundly increased by the financial crisis, which has started from developed countries. This had a negative impact on developing countries, exacerbated the situation within these communities and reduced their potential for betterment of the standards related to different features of the development.

- The lack of endeavour for greater acceptance and operationalization of the right to development at the international level. All States should undertake the necessary policy formulation at the national level and consider the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The international community should demonstrate its political commitment and give high profile to the right to development as it rightly deserves.

- The insufficiency of effective development policies to make equitable economic relations and favorable economic environment at the international level.

**What steps, including the formulation, adoption and implementation of policy, legislative and other measures, have been taken by your country at the national, regional and international levels to implement the obligations enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, inter alia, with regard to:**

**formulating appropriate national and international development policies; achieving effective international cooperation; undertaking appropriate reforms at the national and international levels; removing obstacles to development, including, inter alia, human rights violations, racism, colonialism, occupation and aggression; and promoting peace and disarmament, and the redirecting of savings generated there from to development.**

Since the victory of the revolution, Islamic Republic of Iran has made some measures to codify and implement the standards enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development. This codification is both in law and practice and in the context of respect for human rights. In addition, the Five-year Development Plans and the Charter of Citizenship, set out clear steps towards the realization of the right to development. Some of them are as follows:

The Constitution:

- Article 22: The dignity, life, property, residence, and occupation of the individuals are inviolate.

- Article 28: Everyone has the right to occupy descent and appropriate job, which would not infringe rights of others and be contrary to Islam and public interests. The government must respect the need for different types of work for all people, the opportunity to work and create equal conditions for jobs.

- Article 29: The groups of retirement, unemployment, old age, disability, orphanage, homelessness, accidents benefit from social security, health services and medical care. The government is to provide financial service to meet the need of the individuals of the country.

The Cabinet:

- The Cabinet has approved the country's productivity program including improving productivity indexes, productivity and system performance, roles and responsibilities of all public and private sectors as an application binding for these sectors to enhance the contribution of productivity, economic growth, planning, policymaking, governance, monitoring and evaluating the factors of production such as labour, capital, energy, water and soil. These policies could be supplemented with policies encouraging the private and state-owned companies.

Charter of Citizenship:

- Citizens should enjoy a decent life, including among the others food, clothing, housing, education, health and management.

- The executive agencies should, within the framework of laws and regulations, take all necessary measures to improve level of public health and life expectancy, protect the fundamental and favourable conditions for life, health, and provide easy access to inexpensive and extensive therapy, medication, equipment, goods and services, health promotion, healthy living condition and reduce child mortality. The government is also required to monitor the attainment of health centres to provide better treatment.

- Citizens have the right to physical, psychological and spiritual health.

- Citizens have the right to safe living and working environments free from physical and psychological pressure.

**Has the right to development been invoked by your country in support of trade-related flexibilities, safeguards or special and differentiated treatment? If so, please provide details.**

Yes, Five-year Economic Policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran are codified in Article 44 of the constitution, in which the scope of activities of the public, private and the other contributors have been determined.

**Have external obstacles to the realization of the right to development been invoked by your country in reports or responses to international human rights mechanisms**?

Yes, the external obstacles to the realization of the right to development have been reflected in different reports submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the treaty bodies and other international human rights mechanism (the latest was the second national report of Iran to the 20th Working Group on the UPR, October 2014). In this relation, the government has constantly referred to external obstacles to the realization of the right to development.

Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran in its periodic reports that were submitted to the human rights treaty bodies, including the ICESCR (2013) mechanism has also incorporated its comments and information in details about the steps taken by the government in implementing the right to development.

**Have you submitted information to regional or international human rights monitoring mechanisms on the steps taken by your country in implementing the right to development? If so, please provide details.**

Yes, the measures taken by my government in implementing the right to development have been raised in different reports submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran to international human rights monitoring bodies including: the treaty bodies and the UPR mechanisms.

Islamic Republic of Iran, in its national report submitted to the 20th Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review in (October 2014) under the section of national human rights trends and mechanism for promotion and protection of human rights, has mentioned the measures that have been taken by government for economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to health, right to education, social security, right to housing, particularly right to education and health in rural areas.

**What statistical methods are being used by your country to assess progress made in the realization of the right to development?**

Generally, the Deputyship of Planning and Development in the President Office and other ministries in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance; Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare assess the progress made in the realization of the right to development by providing analytical reports and using statistical methods as well as Monitoring and Evaluation models.