**Report to the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities**

**(Theme: the right of persons with disabilities to participate in decision-making)**

***By*** *Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC)*

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Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 26/20, and at the call of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) hold a meeting with steering committee of the people with disability NGOs and some governmental actors in this field. For their mandate, the first-hand information on the situation of persons with disabilities in the country has been collected. This meeting with national stakeholders allowed IHRC both to identify the challenges that persons with disabilities face in enjoying their human rights on an equal basis with others and to make recommendations for the Government on how to improve the situation.

1. **Policies aimed at implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals**
   1. Note that Iran has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009 but had yet to ratify the Optional Protocol thereto. Accordingly, Iran`s first national report on this issue has been submitted to the Rights of People with Disabilities' committee which is waiting for the observation.
   2. Every five years in Iran, a law of developing plan is adopted by the parliament. In this law most aspects of development within the country is considered. Now the bill related to the law of "The Sixth Government Developing Plan" is under revision in the parliament and in this bill, the people with disabilities` NGOs and advocates has tried to add positive inputs addressing the rights of people with disabilities based on the convention.
   3. In regards to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by UN in 2015, Iran has not developed a detailed action plan yet. As a result, there is not a specific goals defined for the rights of people with disabilities based on the SDGs. As to foster the SDGs goals in Iran, the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) is trying to hold a seminar soon on this issue.
   4. Every year, the government budgetary system allocates a reasonable portion to ensure the rights of people with disabilities and these budgets are given to the effective organizations and institutes who are responsible for protecting the rights of this group of people. In Iran, there are two main and outstanding institutions deal with this issue, the State Welfare Organization of Iran (Behzisti) and Issar centre which deals with the martyr and veterans with disabilities` affairs.
2. **Legislative and policy framework in place in your country concerning non-discrimination** 
   1. In the State Welfare Organization of Iran (Behzisti) `s program, there is a remarkable consideration on the situation and rights of vulnerable groups.
   2. The people with disabilities` NGOs and advocates as well as some of the lawyers who have disabilities are actively and constantly involved in national decision making councils on the rights of people with disabilities as well as giving consultation to governments. For instance their direct and active involvement and following of the process of mentioned bill can be noticed.
   3. In the Iran's constitutional law, article 19, where the different types of non-discrimination has been mentioned; there is no specific referring to the condition of people with disabilities. But in the Iran`s ordinary law, there are various rules and regulations highlighting non-discrimination. In general there is not visible discrimination in the law except for the rights of people with disability of blindness to become candidate for the parliamentary which is against the Iran Constitutional law. So far, amendments to this article have been referred to the parliament but it did not find its way to the acceptance.
   4. The State Welfare Organization of Iran (Behzisti) constantly tries to develop programs addressing the discrimination by affirmative action and NGOs on the other hand asks for these affirmative action. The recognized rights for the person with disabilities in the convention are considered in the bill of "Reconsidering the Comprehensive Law to Protect the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"; this bill now is waiting for adoption by guardian council, the final authority in decision making of a bill to law. In this bill the role of remedy has been foreseen remarkably which in case of acceptance all the issues in this regards will be solved.
3. **Legislative and policy framework in place in your country concerning accessibility for persons with disabilities** 
   1. In regards to the rights of people with disabilities to the accessibility, Iranian institutions have been showed a gradual and reasonable effort so far and the NGOs and advocates are satisfied about Iran's` actions on this issue. There is a set of standards determined which ministry of road and urban development, Iran's Supreme Council of Architecture and Urban Planning and government are responsible to ensuring its implementation. These accessibility standards should both implement adequate to the government determination in private and public sectors which is under accomplishment. Furthermore, so far many workshops had been hold on these standards to make awareness about the rights of people with disabilities to the accessibility. In each province, there are committees who are responsible to observe the implementation of the accessibility, under the supervision of Ministry of Interior, within the province but still they could not meet NGOs and advocates expectation.
4. **Legislative and policy framework in place in your country concerning support services for persons with disabilities** 
   1. Support services for persons with disabilities are under the State Welfare Organization of Iran (Behzisti) `s responsibility. Although these support services are diverse and cover many aspects of a person with disabilities life (e.g. accommodation, car, healthcare, wheelchair and etc.), the NGOs and advocates believe that, first, the allocating budget for supporting services are insufficient and secondly, the management and distribution of the financial resources between the stakeholders are not adequate and for improve it, they have various suggestions.