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Islamic Republic of Iran

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I. Methodology and consultative procedures

1. The report of the third cycle of the universal periodic review (UPR) of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been drafted on the basis of documents¹ and the relevant guidelines. Following the adoption of the recommendations of the second cycle, the High Council for Human Rights of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the national reference body of the UPR, established, as the first step, the National followed-up Committee on the implementation of the accepted recommendations, comprised of representatives from the relevant departments, in August 2015, and concurrently it established the NGOs' consultative Committee in November 2015. The recommendations were categorized, on the basis of their topics, and further notified to governmental executive departments and relevant NGOs, for implementation and presentation of reports thereof. They were also required to submit mid-term report. Several meetings were held to coordinate and assess their performance. Pursuant to the receipt of relevant reports, the drafting committee was held, with the participation of representatives of relevant departments, and upon a close scrutiny of organizations' performance and taking into consideration the views of civil society representatives, drafted the present report.

II. Implementation of the second round UPR recommendations

A. Normative and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights²

2. The third chapter of the Constitution, entitled "The Rights of the Nation", contains 24 principles, describing human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals. There are also explicit references made in this regard in other chapters. The Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys a number of human rights structures, including the High Council for Human Rights, which acts as an Oversight-body institution. The Secretariat of the Citizenship Rights Authority of the Judiciary, the Deputy Attorney General for supervising of public rights, the Administrative Justice Tribunal, the State Inspection Organization, the Assistant to the President for Civil Rights Affairs, the Committee on Article Ninety of the Constitution and the Committee on Human Rights of the Islamic Consultative Assembly are among the other institutions engaged in this field.

The latest developments in the legislative process

3. In addition to ratifying and notifying of the Charter of Citizenship Rights in December 2016, the most important laws adopted in the field of protection and promotion of human rights are as follows:

- The law of the incorporation of a paragraph into the Anti-Narcotics Law, November, 2015;
- Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities, January 2018;
- The Law on the Protection of Development and Sustainable Employment in Rural and Nomadic Areas by using the National Development Fund, September 2017;
- Law on the Retirement of Employed Women with 20 Years of Service, January 2017;
- The Law on the Reduction of Working Hours of Women with Special Conditions, September 2016;
- Amendments to the Law on the Balanced Use of the State's Facilities to improve the Standards of less Developed Areas, October 2015;
- The Code of Criminal Procedure, enforced in 2015;

- Law on Compulsory Insurance for Third-Party Damage Caused by Vehicle Accidents, November 2015; (Payment of “Diye” to victims regardless of their gender and religion);
- The Act on Prevention of Crime, 2015;
- Instructions for organizing prisoners and reducing the prison population in September 2016.

4. In addition, there are a number of draft and bills under consideration and approval, including the parliamentary bill on incorporation of paragraphs of Book five of the Islamic Penal Code (Ta'zirat and preventive punishments), including the criminalization of discriminatory acts and insult to the legally recognized religions and ethnicities, the Bill on Alternative Social Punishments for Imprisonment, the Bill on the Protection of Children and Juveniles, the Unemployment Insurance Scheme and Protection for Unemployed Job Seekers, the bill on amendment of the law on the status of the Nationality of Children from Iranian Women Married to Foreign Men, the bill on the Provision of Security for Women against Violence and the bill on Amending the Law to Combat against Human Trafficking and Smugglers of Unauthorized Persons.

Establishment of new mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights

5. The most important newly created mechanisms in this regard are as follows:
- Deputy for the Oversight of Public Law at the Attorney General's Office;
 - Position of Assistant to the President, in Citizenship Rights and the General Directors for Citizenship Rights in all executive departments;
 - Deputy Minister for Human Rights and International Affairs at the Ministry of Justice;
 - Secretariat of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
 - Deputy of Administrative Health and Protection for the Rights of People, in the State Office of Administrative Affairs and Recruitment;
 - National System for Complaints in the State Inspection Organization.³

National Human Rights Institution

6. The draft bill on the National Human Rights Institution has been drafted and put forward to public views for observation and suggestions, and presently, it is under complementary review by experts.

Accession to the international human rights conventions

7. In connection with the accession to other international human rights conventions, the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to reform its criminal and civil laws which are related to human rights principles. The Islamic Penal Code and the new Criminal Procedure Code have addressed human rights standards, including the rights of the accused (stipulation of protective mechanisms) and the definition and prohibition of torture. In the field of women's rights, the bill on the Protection of Women against Violence has been drafted. Regarding the protection of migrant workers and their families, the Islamic Republic of Iran, through its accession to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, has provided the basic protections for migrant workers.

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations⁴

8. The Islamic Republic of Iran is a party to the core international human rights instruments and treaties and has undertaken the following actions in order to fulfill its obligations:

- Defending the third and fourth periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, January 2016;

- Defending the initial report to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, March 2017;
- Follow up and implementation of a number of concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

9. It is worth noting that the periodic report on the implementation of ICERD, the fourth periodic report on the implementation of ICCPR, the third periodic report on the implementation of ICESCR, and the initial report on CRC-OPSC are under drafting.

Interactions and cooperations

10. Interaction and cooperation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and providing replies to his draft reports, the mandate holders of the UNHRC including the formal invitations extended to three Special Rapporteurs on the right to health, food, and unilateral coercive measures, to visit Iran and replies to communications of the special procedures, continuing to promote cooperation with the OHCHR (two high level delegations from the OHCHR visited Tehran on May 2018 and March 2019). Furthermore, an official invitation has been extended to the High Commissioner.

11. Conducting and continuing bilateral human rights and judicial cooperation, over the past four years, with a number of countries, including Italy (four rounds), Denmark (three rounds), Brazil (one round), Japan (four rounds), Australia (two rounds), Switzerland (four rounds), the European Union (three rounds), South Africa (one round) and Indonesia (two rounds), as well as human rights consultations with China, Russian Federation, Qatar, Iraq and Germany.

C. Promotion of human development indicators⁵

12. According to the Human Development Report of the UNDP, in 2018, the Islamic Republic of Iran with the score of 0.798 stands at the top of the "Countries with High Human Development" group. HDI was 0.774 in 2015. Life expectancy, as one of the components of HDI, which represents health in each country, has significantly improved through advances in healthcare, from 71.9 in 2010 to 75.6 in 2015 and to 76.2 in 2017. HDI has also grown significantly in the education sector. In terms of per capita income, which is another part of HDI, if Iran has not faced unlawful and unfair sanctions, and given the capabilities available in the country, it could have been categorized in the group of "countries with a very high human development".

D. Economic, social and cultural rights

Human rights education⁶

13. The main measures taken in the field of education and capacity building of human rights, by executive departments, are as follows:

- Inclusion of human rights education in textbooks and in school supplementary reading materials and establishment of a human rights education chair within the Legal Departments in the higher education institutions;
- Human rights training for judges, judicial officers and administrative staff on the rights of the child, the rights of persons with disabilities, the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment and the confronting against domestic violence, for 430,000 person-hours;
- Holding of provincial briefing meetings for officials and judicial authorities by the High Council for Human Rights;
- Holding of training courses on citizenship rights for judges, staff and judicial officers (2112 rounds);
- Holding of sequential specialized sessions on the rights of the child by the National Body on the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

- Initiating and promoting citizenship rights clinics⁷ throughout the country, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental sectors, with the aim of educating and promoting citizenship ethics and citizenship rights and of providing legal and judicial assistance, psychological counseling and social work;
- Holding of training courses on citizenship rights and administrative ethics for the personnel of the executive departments, by the Ministry of Justice for more than 50,000 person-hours;
- Trainings for the introduction of the Act on citizenship rights, in the administrative system, and familiarity with the Charter of Citizens Rights in the provinces of the country, as well as the holding of six rounds of courses on training tutors (140 individuals) for describing and educating the citizenship rights;
- Holding of compulsory annual training courses on citizenship rights in all executive departments;
- Holding of workshops on citizenship rights for students, their parents and their teachers in a total of 2,572,000 person-hours;
- Holding of training courses on citizenship rights at three levels of inspectors, staff and directors of the police;
- Public education of citizenship rights by IRIB (Radio-Television), in a total of 3,494 hours.

Right to education⁸

14. All students⁹ have access to formal education in the country. Children who are denied or deprived of the right to education as a result of causes such as dropping out of school, illness, etc. are provided with non-attendance (virtual) and attendance education. On the basis of the law on the protection of children and juveniles, the prevention of the education of children is considered as a crime and the culprit shall be fined.

15. According to the “Document on the Fundamental Transformation of Education System”, ensuring access to appropriate education in all regions of the country, regardless of race and gender, with emphasis on the education of girls and vulnerable groups in less-developed, rural and nomadic regions, is among the most important objectives of the country. Special programs in this field include the empowerment and entrusting of power to school administrators to identify and attract people in need of education, in the local communities, the introduction of appropriate mechanisms for promoting alternative methods such as boarding schools, village-center, and distance education, the development and equipping of these schools, proportionate to indigenous needs, as well as the drafting of the comprehensive program for supporting schools and students in the countryside areas through resources of government, international and NGOs.

16. In order to realize the right of access to the qualitative formal education for all the children in need of education, a program on blocking causes of illiteracy was launched in March, 2014 with the aim of identifying, attracting, educating and safeguarding all children in need of primary education, at an early age, with an emphasis on the children who have whether quitted or have been deprived of education, especially girls.¹⁰ Parts of the most important activities in this field are as follows:

- Launching “our homework” website for the establishment of a database, 2017;
- Implementation of the census plan on the children deprived of education, aged from 6 to 11 and provision of the nominal statistics to provincial authorities to attract them to education;
- Holding of make-up classes for these children and workshops to brief the administrative staff of schools and the parents;
- Providing counseling services to families and children with learning problems;
- Distribution of 7,000 educational packages and other supplies, free of charge, in less developed areas;

- Use of the potentials of charities and NGOs, to identify and educate these students;
- Development of pre-school education, especially in less-developed, rural and nomadic areas¹¹;
- Accelerating and facilitating the enrollment process as well as the education continuation of Iranian children missing identity documents.¹²

17. On the basis of the decree of the Supreme Leader (May 2015) and the stipulated Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Ministry of Education is required to enroll, in schools, students of foreign nationality, asylum seekers and refugees who do not have legal residency in the country. The number of those students reached 386,269 in the academic year 2015–2016 and 500,000 students in the academic year 2018–2019.¹³

Combating illiteracy

18. According to official statistics, the country's literacy rate in the age group of 6 years and older has increased from 87.1% in 2015 to 88.8% in 2018. Also, in the age group of 10–49 years, as the main target group for the activities of the Literacy Movement Organization, the literacy rate was 94.3% in 2015, up to 95.7% in 2018. From 2015 to 2018, a number of 1,782,677 people, with the priority given to rural areas, women and girls, participated in the literacy courses of the Organization. With the implementation of the programs on "literacy of the 19–10 age group" from 2015, a total of 65,696 people, including 24,364 foreign nationals, on "courses for illiterate parents of students", a number of 30,246 people, and on "courses for foreign language", and a number 83,475 people enjoyed free education.¹⁴

Higher education

19. Access to higher education is available in all parts of the country.¹⁵ In the academic year 2015–2016, a total of 1,174,897 university students (including 499,219 female and 665,678 male) were enrolled in higher education institutions. This number was 1,002,115 students (440,773 female and 561,342 male) in the academic year of 2018–19.

Right to health and social security¹⁶

20. In order to realize the right to health and justice in the field of health, and to guarantee the access of all people to services, significant steps have been taken. The implementation of the "Health System Development Plan" has been the most outstanding development in this regard. The main achievements of this plan are as follows:

- Increase in life expectancy at birth (LEB) to 76.2 years and reducing the mortality rate of infants, children, pregnant mothers through free maternal and child health benefits and promoting natural delivery;¹⁷
- Improving the nutritional status of targeted groups including children, students, girls, pregnant mothers and the elderly;¹⁸
- Prevention of communicable diseases and priority problems, including high-risk behavioral and HIV-related diseases, polio eradication, malaria eradication and prevention of new and emerging diseases;
- Reduction of early deaths in the population between 30 and 70 years of age;¹⁹
- Improving mental health through counseling and therapeutic interventions;
- Control of social harms, including addiction and high-risk behaviors, with the enjoyment of free benefit of the social health services;
- Increase in the coverage and enjoyment of primary care services through expanding and restoring rural and urban health networks, especially in the periphery of cities. At present, there are 17,948 health houses, 253 rural health centers, 5,311 city health centers, 2,674 rural health centers for comprehensive services, 2,723 city health centers for comprehensive services and 461 city town health centers providing medical services to people;

- Presence of family physicians in cities and villages;²⁰
- Reduction of the share of patients admitted to public hospitals in costs of governmental hospitals, as well as financial support for patients with life-threatening and special diseases, and the disadvantaged ones;
- Control, eradication and elimination of non-communicable diseases; the outstanding achievements of the country in this field were duly recognized by the United Nations through presenting the UNIATF Prize to the Islamic Republic of Iran, in September of 2018.

Voluntary sterilization and sex change

21. Castration is carried out, only voluntarily to prevent unwanted and high-risk pregnancies and illness and the death thereof.

22. According to the law,²¹ sex change is possible upon request made by the individual him/herself, and upon reference by the court to expert examination and specialized legal medical examination, it may be carried out by court order.

Social security

23. Coverage of all the people deprived of health insurance, by the introduction of "Health Insurance Scheme" has been one of the most important measures taken in recent years. So far, more than 39 million people have been covered by this insurance and they are using cheap, and in cases, free services of public hospitals and health centers. Also, in relation to social security, the number of covered people increased from 41,380,799 in 2015 to 42,792,136 in 2018.²²

Right to adequate housing²³

24. The Comprehensive Housing Plan for the period of 2017–2026 has been reviewed and drafted, with the main purpose of providing adequate housing for all segments of the society and solving the housing problem of low-income households. The Sixth National Development Plan has, also, stipulated for the construction and provision of 100,000 residential units per year, in the form of a "Supportive Housing Program" and a "Social housing program". Also, in the framework of the "Rural Housing Renovation and Improvement Program", it is stipulated that 200,000 low-interest bank facilities to be granted annually in rural areas. During the first quarter of 2018, a number of 20,541 residential units were completed and handed over.

25. From 2015 to mid-2018, the Government has granted bank facilities in urban and rural areas, including 244,133,644 for house purchase, 176,777,726 for construction and 4,584,746 (thousand million Rials) for the reconstruction in urban and rural areas.

26. The Social Security Organization has spent 9,433 billion Rials from its internal resources for the construction and purchase of houses for low-income groups, for the period from 2013 to 2017.²⁴

27. It should be noted that regarding housing, people with disabilities and assistance-seekers of SWO have been provided with 42,189 units, and families with two or more disabled members with 5,782 units.

Right to safe drinking water²⁵

28. By December 2016, 80.02% of the rural population and 99.2% of the urban population have had access to drinking water through pipes. By the allocation of funds from the National Development Fund and from the public budget and by implementing the plan on the sustainable supply of drinking water, with priority of water supply to villages of the country, more than 6,900 villages were provided with sustainable and safe drinking water between 2015 and 2018. Water supply for 1,950 village is on the agenda in 2019.

Rights of people with disabilities²⁶

29. Adoption of the Act on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2017,²⁷ was amongst the most recent legal developments. Guaranteeing equal opportunities in the society, in the process of sustainable development of the country, strengthening the performance guarantee and the maximum conformity with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities have been among the important goals for the amendment of the law. The active involvement of civil society organizations in the process of drafting and approval of this law was significant. A "National Committee for Coordination of Affairs of Persons with Disabilities", has been under consideration, in accordance with Article 31 of the above-mentioned Law, with the purpose of appropriate supervision over implementation of the law, at the highest level, with the participation of representatives of the relevant departments and five representatives from national networks of persons with disabilities.

30. Drafting, approval and implementation of the "National Document on the Elderly of the Country"²⁸ (October 2018) with the purpose of providing the necessary support and protection for the elderly, whose vast majority could face mental, physical and movement disorders, is one of the most important measures in this field.

Children with disabilities

31. With the purpose of creating equal opportunities, SWO has accommodated children with disabilities who have bad or no guardians in the "Houses of Children and Juveniles" throughout the country and provides them with supportive and specialized services. In the years 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively 1140, 814 and 1,082 children were under the cover of SWO.²⁹

Adaptation and accessibility

32. The second chapter of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities supports the barrier-free environment of public places and their adaptation to the needs of persons with disabilities. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken some measures like drafting the National Document of Adaptation (2018) and launching a SMS Complaint System called "Ma'bar" (3000012322).³⁰

Awareness raising

33. Provisions of Articles 20 and 21 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2017) require executive departments to promote culture and public awareness, in association with SWO. Iran Broadcasting Organization³¹ (IRIB/National Radio-TV Org.), social networks, and specialized websites and special publications (Sepid Newspaper) distribute news and information in this field.

Education

34. In accordance with the executive code of the Regulation of the Integrated-Comprehensive education of the Ministry of Education,³² all schools are required to admit students with disabilities along with other students. The number of schools which admitted students with disabilities in the academic year 2018–2019, compared to the school year 2013–2014, has increased by 133.9%. An integrated electronic system for students with disabilities has been designed and commissioned to record all their information from diagnosis to graduation, and the academic coverage of students suffering from autism.³³

35. The most important educational measures, adopted by the Ministry of Education, for children with disabilities, are as follows: establishment of boarding schools, setting up pre-professional and secondary vocational courses for students with significant intellectual impairment, and development of rehabilitation services.³⁴

Empowerment, rehabilitation and assurances for social integration

36. In this regard, SWO has taken some measures such as Rehabilitation services for rural communities (1,877,283 cases) and urban communities (16,000 cases), medical

services and sanitary equipment (451,127 cases), granting of livelihoods and educational allowances (2,152,878 cases); and Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs provides medical and health services (6,762,813 cases of services for 1,693,557 people), and legal assistance (67,108 cases).

37. The SWO has also implemented a variety of disability prevention programs such as the plan on screening, diagnosis and early intervention in hearing of infants (3,982,429 people), the project on prevention of disabilities caused by mine explosions and other unexploded ammunitions (2,269,721 people), etc.

Employment and the administrative and employment support³⁵

38. Some of the main measures taken by SWO include employment for 186,581 people, payment of subsidies to improve the efficiency of disabled people working in the non-governmental sector (3,242 people), payment of the share of employer's insurance and self-employment insurance of the disabled and assistance-seekers of the SWO (39,113 people), granting of banking facilities, employment of people with disabilities in government departments based on a 3% quota, and job training for more than 13,000 people in training centers.³⁶

Cooperation with NGOs

39. Over 662 NGOs are active in the field of "people with disabilities" which are continuously interacting with SWO.

Poverty reduction and development of rural and less-developed areas³⁷

40. Iran's 20-year Vision Plan, the Law on Permanent Orders of the National Development Plans³⁸ and the Law on Economic, Social and Cultural Development Programs have envisaged for the reduction of poverty and creation of social justice and development of rural and less-developed areas. The most important measures adopted by the relevant departments, in this field, are as follows:

- *The State Welfare Organization*: Establishment and development of groups of female headed household (from 914 to 1,200 groups); the Community-Based Empowerment Plan with a poverty reduction approach (from 113 to 157 cases); establishment and extension of child care centers in deprived, harmful and informal inhabitations (from 225 up to 250 centers), etc.
- *Ministry of Agriculture*: the transfer of farmland from amongst the national and State lands to individuals with small or no lands; transfer of land to applicants for various projects (agriculture, industry, services and etc.), especially to villagers, nomads and female heads of households.
- *Imam Khomeini Relief Committee*: providing livelihood supportive packages; providing health services (including nursing services for patients in need of help at home and supportive packages for patients with high-risk diseases (57,700 people)); providing basic insurance (1 million people) and supplementary care for assistance seekers (3 million people) and accident insurance (annually for more than 1,500,000 people); support for sustainable employment and entrepreneurship (creation of 459,175 job opportunities and self-sufficiency of 249,634 households);³⁹ empowerment and self-sufficiency of female headed households (1,187,108 people); provision of training-educational services for the children of the female headed households; provision of free legal and judicial assistance and establishment of a legal-assistance service desk throughout the country(375 desks);
- *Barakat Foundation of Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini's Command*: provision of extensive services in less-developed areas in fields of economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, infrastructure, health as well as insurance and cultural support.⁴⁰

Right to work⁴¹

41. The Government has developed and enforced comprehensive laws and regulations⁴² for sustainable employment on the basis of equal access to employment.

42. According to the results of the 2018 workforce survey, the economic participation rate of women and men has had an increasing trend from 2015 to 2018 and it has risen from 38.2% in 2015 to 40.5% in 2018. Between 2015 and 2018, the largest share of employment was generated respectively in services, industry and agriculture.⁴³

43. Parts of the measures to create employment are as follows:

- Implementation of the Rural and Nomadic Employment Plan;
- Granting of bank facilities;
- Support for self-sufficiency schemes;
- Job Placement;
- Construction and equipping of self-sufficiency spaces for 1,258 units;
- Implementation of employment facilitation programs;⁴⁴
- Increase in the quota of women in recruitment of government departments;
- Allocation of considerable credits for the creation of jobs for vulnerable people and women;⁴⁵
- Launch of the Women's Business Development and Acceleration Center; strengthening rural women's associations and cooperation; entrepreneurship development for women;
- Provision of specialized, technical and vocational trainings,⁴⁶ including for informal settlements (countryside), villagers, nomads, less-developed and border areas, soldiers in garrisons, university graduates and students in universities; occupational empowerment of socially harmed people; in total for 3,317,013;
- Supporting startup plans with the youth-employment approach;⁴⁷
- Development of cooperation with NGOs and charities in support of job creation;
- Support for labor associations and their increasing number from 1,248 to 1,836.

Women's rights⁴⁸

44. The Islamic Republic of Iran has promoted women's cultural, social, economic, civil and political rights as a key element in its national policy, law making and planning.

45. The most important legislative proposals that have been approved or are under drafting, in order to protect and promote women's rights, are as follows:

- The Law on the Reduction of Working Hours of Women with Special Conditions (2016);
- Considering several provisions on women's rights in the charter of Citizenship Rights;
- The Government's approval on promoting the health and vitality of women and girls through sports, 2018;
- The decisions of the Supreme Administrative Council to require the Government to allocate 30% of the managerial positions to women, as well as the selection and appointment of professional directors on the basis of the required general and specialized competencies regardless of gender;
- Bill on the Protection of Women against Violence;
- Bill on Amendments to the Law on the Determination of the Nationality of the Children of the Iranian Women Married to Foreign Men, 2018.⁴⁹

Gender balance

46. On the basis of Article 101 of the Sixth National Development Plan, on the empowerment of the foundation of family and promotion of the status of women in all areas, the Deputy-President for women and family affairs has drafted a document on the promotion of the status of women and the family through identifying the indicators of gender balance, and consultation with the civil society, in the framework of 8 axis and 28 main indicators.

Education

47. The trend of women's participation in higher education in the country is ascending. At present, 43.98% of the university students are female. The share of women in the academic staff of universities, throughout the country, stands at 24%, which has grown by 8% since 2009. Women account for about 30% of employed women with higher education.

Women's employment⁵⁰

48. Women's economic participation rate, in an uptrend, has risen from 12.4% in 2013 to 16.4% in 2018. The rate of women employment in the government sector has risen from 34.64% in 2009 to 41.67% in 2018, which indicates an upward trend in women's participation in government employments. There are more than 4,000 active female entrepreneurs.⁵¹ So far, 223 centers, throughout the country, have been established and are in operation, about 20% of which are being run by women entrepreneurs.

Presence of women in decision-making positions and political participation⁵²

49. The number of female managers, at all levels, has increased from 14.9% in 2017 to 18.3% in 2018. More than 970 female judges work in the Judiciary. From 2011 to 2017, the average number of annual female recruitment as judges has increased by about 3%. The number of female candidates and the elected women in the fifth round of the City Council Elections (2017) were 15,491 and 4,029. About one-third of female candidates won seats. Currently, 14 parties have been founded, particularly by women, and have received permits. The number of female members of political parties and groups is more than 15,000.

Empowerment of women

50. In the course of the latest developments, in line with the implementation of Article 80 of the Sixth National Development Plan Law, the National Task Force on the Empowerment of Female Heads of Households has been established in the field of development of employment and entrepreneurship.

51. In this regard, SWO has taken some measures, including establishing and developing of social worker clinics (from 386 to 563), developing of guidelines for specialized interventions to protect girls exposed to social harms, commissioning 15 divorce hotlines for psychosocial-social support of divorced women and their children in the provinces, commissioning 21 centers for psychosocial-social support of girls and families in partnership with NGOs, commissioning of 3 centers for empowerment of affected women and girls, expansion of social emergency centers to 346 centers and commissioning of 55 social services bases in informally settled areas and countryside settlements.

Criminalization of violence against women

52. In addition to the criminalization of violence against women in the Islamic Penal Code and the Family Protection Act (adopted in 2012), the bill on the Protection of Women against Violence, which is going through the final required stages of ratification, has stipulated effective protection guarantees.

53. With the purpose of empowering members of the household, the SWO provides free and 24-hour legal, psychological, psychiatric, therapy supports to family members, through setting up of safe houses for mothers and children under the custody of the Organization.

Between 2015 and 2018, an average of 1,500 women, victims of domestic violence and their children, received specialized services, annually, in 28 safe houses.

54. Deputy-Head of the Judiciary for Social Assistance and Prevention of Crimes, to fight against violence, has established the National Committee on Prevention of Violence at the National Level (2015) including domestic violence, and has been making follow-ups of various measures.⁵³

Strengthening of social organizations of women and the family

55. The Deputy-President for Women and Family Affairs has so far concluded 304 Memorandums of Understanding for joint cooperation with NGOs, throughout the country, from the second half of 2013 to 2017, in which various issues of cooperation, upon request, and potentials of those organizations have been taken into consideration.

Rights of the child⁵⁴

56. Following the previous report, the drafting of a Comprehensive Document on the Rights of the Child (2015) and drafting a Bill on Protection of Children and Juveniles have been among the important measures adopted in this field. Also, on the basis of the 6th Development Plan Act, the Government is obliged to increase child food protection, to increase protection of children with no guardian, orphans and street children (Article 78), and to organize and reduce street children and child laborers.

57. The National Focal Point for Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child has established similar bodies, by benefiting from capacities of women's and family affairs offices of provincial governors offices, to improve the rights of children, for the purpose of coordinating and overseeing the performance of executive departments in other provinces.

58. The Law on the Determining of the Citizenship Status of the Children of the marriage of an Iranian woman with a foreign man, is in progress since 2006. Also, the law is being amended in the Parliament to grant citizenship to individuals before reaching the age of 18.

Prohibition of discrimination against children

59. According to the law, all persons under the age of 18, with no or bad guardian, regardless of religion, ethnicity and nationality, shall enjoy health care, education, medical treatment, subsistence and custodian services. Also, disadvantaged refugee and immigrant children are under the cover of free welfare services.

60. With regard to street children and child laborers, the center for management of street children of SWO, with the participation of interested NGOs, provides free protection and welfare services, with two family-centered and of mental-social harm reduction approaches. It should be noted that, on average, 60% of street children and child laborers are of foreign nationality, which, according to the humanitarian principle and in respect for the rights of the child, regardless of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic characteristics, the Iranian Government has provided them with the same types of services as Iranian children. In the years between 2015 and 2018, an average of 5,000 specialized child-care services was provided, annually.

Prohibition and prevention of violence against children

61. Different laws of the country emphasize on the need for the good behavior of parents or legal guardians with children and the prevention of maltreatment.⁵⁵ It should be noted that, according to Article 1 of the "Child and Adolescent Protection Bill", any type of maltreatment, economic exploitation, deal and selling/buying, prostitution and any form of sexual exploitation, any vulgar exploitation and pornography are defined and criminalized on the basis of Article 10.

62. Social Emergency of SWO, with its 350 centers throughout the country, provides a variety of supportive services to the child victims of violence or to the children exposed to maltreatment, child laborers and the street children under difficult and hard conditions as

well as suffering children in collective disasters and catastrophes. In 2018, children suffering from violence counted for about 6% of the target group of this program.

63. Other supporting measures in this area include:

- Establishing Special Investigation Branches and Criminal Courts in the Judiciary for the examination of child abuse crimes;
- Establishing a Working Group against Child Abuse, June, 2017;
- Launching the SMS hotline 30003636 for child abuse reports;
- Implementation of the "Namaad" (symbol) Scheme, by the Ministry of Education, in the field of prevention of violence against children.

Legal and judicial protection

64. With the adoption of the Islamic Penal Code (2013) and the Criminal Procedure Code (2015), special protections have been stipulated in accordance with international instruments for children and juvenile in the judicial process, including:

- Waiving the punishment of Qisas (retribution) and Ha'd for defendants under the age of 18, if they have not comprehended the nature of the committed crime or its prohibition/forbiddance; or there is doubt about their growth and wisdom;⁵⁶
- Considering special provisions for differentiating treatment;
- Assigning special branches of the Prosecutor's Offices and the court;
- Establishing of system of gradual criminal liability;
- Amending the age of criminal responsibility on the foundation of the mind growth criterion;
- Applying a variety of correctional and educational alternatives to incarceration, such as giving children to the family or holding in rehabilitation centers for upbringing for a maximum of 5 years;
- Using opportunity-creating criminal responses and arranging new legal institutions such as suspension of prosecution, postponement of sentence and suspension of punishment at different stages of the trial;
- The possibility of repeated reconsideration of verdicts and court decisions after the issuance of a ruling.

Prohibition of forced and early marriage

65. Concerning the increase in the minimum age for the marriage of girls and boys, it should be noted that Article 50 of the Family Protection Law, adopted in 2012, has criminalized some of the early marriages. Also, the cultural and social changes in the country and the increase in the level of education of girls and women have increased the minimum age of marriage. Nevertheless, in some cities and less-developed areas, a few early marriages have been reported, which happen under the influence of some minor traditions and cultures. In this connection, positive effects will be seen with the efforts which have been made through educational and cultural programs.

Promotion of sports⁵⁷

66. Sport is promoted through construction and upgrading infrastructure of sports facilities, developing rural and nomadic sports, improving women's access to sports facilities and promoting public sport, the establishment and equipping of 3,000 rural sports centers throughout the country, increasing the number of women's sport federations from 45 to 49 and establishment of 5,200 sport stations with the purpose of promoting the health and vitality of the various walks of life, including the elderly, and existence of 411 sports center dedicated to people with disabilities.⁵⁸

E. Civil and political rights

Rights of refugees and asylum seekers⁵⁹

67. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the fourth largest country in the world for hosting asylum seekers. Despite the imposed unilateral and unjust sanctions, Iran has provided refugees and asylum seekers with appropriate extensive resources in the field of education, health care, livelihood, housing, etc. This has been happening despite the fact that international assistance to Iran is very small and covers only less than 3% of the costs met by Iran.

68. The most important measures adopted in support of refugees and asylum seekers are as follows:

- Establishment of mechanisms for monitoring and screening information;
- Approval of regulations on the education of foreign nationals in 2016;⁶⁰
- Health insurance coverage for foreign nationals residing in the country;⁶¹
- Social Security Insurance coverage for about 90,000 people. All refugee children with disabilities have been covered by health insurance in cooperation with the office of UNHCR;
- Establishment of 7 medical centers in immigrant-residing provinces and the supply of medicines and equipment needed by 92 health centers in guest cities;
- Training and job empowerment of 21,151 refugees and asylum seekers and issuing more than 270,000 job licenses for at least one of the family members of immigrants and the implementation of training courses to empower them for voluntary return to the countries of origin;
- Cooperation with UNHCR;
- Financial and executive support for humanitarian and promotional activities of the NGOs;
- Providing health, educational and livelihoods and other supports to displaced people, by NGOs.⁶²

Freedom of opinion and religion and the rights of minorities⁶³

69. Articles 10, 33, 77, 97 and 110 of the Charter of Citizenship Rights have consolidated the rights of religious minorities,⁶⁴ ethnicities and social and political affiliations, and in this regard, have banned any type of spreading hatred, particularly against children, discrimination in employment, discrimination in access to information, business and knowledge against minorities, ethnic, social or political groups and they emphasize on the right to intercultural communications.

70. The most important adopted measures are, inter alia, as follows:

- The Law on the Membership of Religious Minorities in City Councils, July 2018;
- Articles of the Ta'zirat Law: criminalization of insulting sanctities of religions recognized in the Constitution, ethnic, racial and religious extremism, which leads to hatred and violence, and any form of financial assistance to those activities have also been criminalized;
- Enjoyment by recognized religious minorities of necessary freedoms to perform their religious and ethnic rituals and observance of the personal status of followers of religions;⁶⁵
- Allocation of special budgets and various financial contributions to special centers and groups of religious minorities;⁶⁶
- Allocation of five parliamentary seats to religious minorities in spite of their population ratio;

- Granting activity licenses to 58 associations for social, civic and cultural activities;⁶⁷
- Access to publications and special press for information of the society and the followers of their religions through holding 20 newspapers, weekly, monthly and magazines as well as 5 publishing centers;⁶⁸
- Operation of 93 special religious minority schools while they enjoy the right to study in all schools. They also have the opportunity to study at various academic levels. In order to protect the literature and culture of recognized minorities, their higher education courses have been established at Iranian universities;⁶⁹
- Application of local regulations, according to religion, within the limits of the authority of city councils, in areas where the followers of each of these religions have the majority.⁷⁰ Sunnis in Iran are not considered as religious minorities and are, in fact, considered as part of the Muslim society. Sunnis have more than 15,000 mosques in Iran, which, in comparison to the Shi'ite population, is much higher;
- Appointment of an advisor on Sunnis affairs, by the President;
- Appointments of Sunnis in senior positions such as the ambassadors, deputy ministers, judges, governors, etc.

Sects

71. Alongside the recognized religious minorities, the rights of all Iranian citizens – including the followers of the Baha'i sect – are respected. According to Principles 3, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 22 and 23 of the Constitution, all Iranians enjoy all the rights of citizenship. Bahá'ism is principally a political sect and not religious. The status of Baha'is in Iran reflects the guarantee and observance of their fundamental rights as a citizen in Iran.⁷¹

72. Despite the allegations that Baha'is are deprived of access to higher education, the following points are noteworthy: Principle 30 of the Constitution has stipulated provision of free education and physical education for all, at all levels, and the facilitation and generalization of education and higher education, as the duty of the Government. Furthermore, the educational centers in Iran have laws and regulations. If any person, regardless of religion or belief, respects those laws, no one can deprive them of their rights.

Freedom of parties, assemblies, expression and access to information and the right to political participation⁷²

73. For the implementation of Principles 26 and 27 of the Constitution and in accordance with the Law on the “Activities of Parties, Societies and Associations and Religious Minorities”, amended in 2016, any social activity in the form of founding a party, society or association shall be authorized. Also, Article 131 of the “Labor Law” recognizes the right to form trade associations. Based on the law, each year, several permits are issued to different groups of people for holding gatherings. In 2018, 46 associations were established, 34 licenses were issued and 75 were extended.

74. In line with the good application of Principle 24 of the Constitution, which has recognized the right to freedom of expression, the legislator in Article 608 of the Islamic Penal Code has stipulated a punishment only on individuals who abuse the freedom of expression to insult other persons.

75. The Press Law Bill, which provides important stipulations on the protection of journalists and reporters, is currently under compilation. Other adopted measures are as follows:

- Release of 161 media⁷³ in Persian / Kurdish; Release of 4 media in Farsi / Baluchi; Release of 421 media in Persian / Azeri;
- Increase in the number of licensed media, from 3,700 in 2015 to 10,600 in 2018 (350 newspapers, 42 news agencies, 2,700 news websites and 4,200 weekly publications);
- Increase in the number of foreign media outlets in the country from 148 offices in 2014 to 170 offices in 2018;

- Increase in the number of journalists residing in the country from 293 in 2015 to 322 in 2018;

76. As for the right of access to information,⁷⁴ the system of “publication and free access to information” was established in July 2017, and 4 manuals of style related to the law on dissemination and free access to information, were declared by the President in May and June of 2019.⁷⁵

77. In order to improve the quality and level of people's access to the Internet and provision of services, the bandwidth increased and the provision of mobile services to the third generation and above has been carried out. It should be noted that the number of Internet users increased from about 32 million in 2015, to more than 46 million so far. Also, the number of websites and blogs in the country increased from 857,149 in 2016 to 1,011,114 in 2018.

78. In Iran, the most important institutions of governance originate from the will of the people as well as the direct or indirect vote of the people; and over the past 40 years, more than 35 nation-wide elections have been carried out with extensive participation of people. From 2015 to 2017, elections of the Assembly of Experts, Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Councils of City and Village and Presidential elections have been held and the rate of participation of the people was 60.96%, 61.64%, 73.33%, 69.26% respectively.

79. The Political Dialogue Charter has been drafted in March 2017, with the aim of maximum participation of the Government and the nation in the administration of the country, with emphasis on the role of parties and NGOs.

Judicial justice⁷⁶

80. The adoption of the new Criminal Procedure Code (enforced in 2015) has been one of the most important developments in the legal system. The Sixth National Development Plan Law, in Articles 113, 116, and 117, requires the Judiciary to increase the accuracy and speed in the provision of judicial services, to create equal opportunities for access to judicial services for all citizens, to reduce incoming files, to prevent commission of crimes, and to reduce the criminal population, to increase the resolution of disputes through arbitration and the creation and development of arbitration institutions, and to establish an inspection system to detect violations by judges, judicial staff and etc.

81. In accordance with the law revised in 2007, the Dispute Resolution Councils are entrusted with resolving disputes and making peace and compromise between natural and legal persons with non-governmental entities.⁷⁷

Effective, independent and impartial judicial system⁷⁸

82. The Code of Criminal Procedure, in Articles 3 and 93, emphasizes on the impartiality and independence of judicial authorities and judges, and in Articles 421 and 372, on the impartiality of judges. Also, Articles 576 and 577 of the Ta'zirat Bill have criminalized involvement in judicial affairs by other government departments, of any position and level; and no authority has the right to intervene in judicial affairs and to prohibit the enforcement of sentences.

Fair proceedings and trial

83. The Code of Criminal Procedure has introduced innovations in the direction of observing the rights of individuals involved in criminal proceedings, including the accused and the victim, and elimination of the existing vacuums, such as: systematization of the principles governing prosecution and the stipulation of fair trial principles in Articles 2 to 7; the requirement of carrying an identification card for law enforcement officers during their missions (Article 30); interrogation of women and minors by women officers (Article 42); presence of lawyers in the initial detention and investigation stages (Article 48); contact of the defendants with their families after being detained (Articles 49 and 50); summoning and detention merely on the basis of a judicial authority ruling; possibility for NGOs to declare crime in the field of citizens' rights, especially in relation to the rights of people with vulnerabilities (Article 66); right to silence (Article 197); compensation for the duration of

arrest after acquittal from attributed charges (Articles 255 to 261); compilation of the personality file in serious crimes (Article 203); elimination of temporary detention (Articles 237 and 238); conversion of the warrant of criminality to prosecution detention warrant (Article 265); prohibition of investigation of children and adolescents by the enforcement officer (Article 285); compilation of the personality files for the children and juveniles (Article 286).

84. As for the fair trial of crimes which result in loss of life, there are different stages in the process of issuing and enforcing sentences. After the initial investigation stage, a preliminary ruling is issued in the lower court with the presence of three judges and its review by the Supreme Court (with the presence of three judges). According to the Code of Criminal Procedure, the request for repetition of court proceeding and a request for one-degree amnesty and pardon are stipulated. Based on Article 477 of this law, in cases where the sentences are definitive, the Head of the Judiciary may, under certain circumstances, request the repetition of proceedings of the final judgment of the Supreme Court.⁷⁹

85. In the fight against narcotics, the law was amended (in September 2017), in which the limits for the amount of narcotics discovered from defendants who are subject to the death penalty, has expanded significantly and, in practice, the execution is only for heads of drug trafficking gangs, armed smuggling, or those who abuse children and people with mental disabilities for smuggling of high amounts of narcotics. This law is also retroactive.

Developments in the right of access to an attorney

86. The Code of Criminal Procedure has guaranteed, in Articles 48, 190, 195, 346, 347 and 348, the presence of a defense lawyer since detention, the presence of a lawyer in the initial stage of proceedings, the possibility of reminding the prosecutor, by the lawyer, in case of posing empathic questions, the right to choose an attorney in criminal matters, the legal assistance in lack of affordability, and the prohibition on holding hearing sessions without the presence of an adopted or court-appointed lawyer in very important crimes.

87. The Sanaa Website has been launched in order to provide access to the dispute parties and their lawyers to the contents of court files and to protect the privacy of the parties and to speed up the proceedings.

Prohibition of torture and arbitrary arrest

88. In accordance with Article 38 of the Constitution, Article 169⁸⁰ of the Islamic Penal Code (2013) and Article 578 of the Islamic Penal Code (Ta'zirat) and Articles 60 and 195 of the Criminal Procedure Code, maltreatment, torture, reluctance and coercion in interrogations and investigations are prohibited and entail punishment. Article 32 of the Constitution and Articles 570, 575, and 583 of the Islamic Penal Code, Article 189 of the Criminal Procedure Code, as well as the Law on Respect for the Legal Freedoms and the Protection of Citizenship Rights, adopted in 2004, have prohibited any form of incarceration, arbitrary arrest and torture by authorities.

Prohibition of prosecution for expression of opinion

89. On the basis of numerous principles of the Constitution and penal provisions, detention is based on observance of laws and is subject to a clear and transparent judicial warrant, away from any personal taste and abuse of power or imposition of any form of violence and in accordance with the principles of fair trial.

Rights of prisoners

90. The Sixth National Development Plan has obliged the State Organization of Prisons and Preventive and Educational Affairs to improve the situation of prisons, develop the necessary infrastructure in cooperation with non-governmental and public organizations, and help with the annual reduction of criminal acts by 10%, by utilizing new criminal institutions such as suspension of prosecution or execution of punishment, deferral of sentencing, provisional release and alternative sentences. In order to guarantee the rights of detainees and prisoners, the following measures are adopted:

- Periodic inspection and supervision by local prosecutors from prisons;
- Periodic inspections by the Citizenship Rights Watch Board of prisons and detention centers;⁸¹
- Renovation of buildings and facilities related to prisons;
- Providing all health facilities for prisoners;⁸²
- Providing psychological counseling and social work, counseling services;
- Providing access to a lawyer and benefiting from legal advice;⁸³
- Improvement of communication facilities for prisoners with the outside of the prison, and the possibility of the meeting (telephone, in-person and private);
- Increase in educational facilities in all prisons and providing study opportunities;⁸⁴
- Employment and vocational training for prisoners;⁸⁵
- Provision of facilities for retraining convicts and empowering them to reintegrate into the society.⁸⁶

Strengthening and interaction with NGOs⁸⁷

91. The Sixth National Development Plan has called on various executive departments to collaborate and associate with NGOs toward the realization of development goals. Article 66 of the Criminal Procedure Code, on the role of NGOs in filing charges, in support of human rights, is also one of the most important legal innovations in this regard. So far, more than 25,000 NGOs have been licensed in the country by relevant specialized departments. 63 Iranian NGOs have also obtained the consultative status of ECOSOC.

92. Assignment of an agreement between the State Organization of Administrative Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of the Interior, the notification of the Code of Methodology for development of the participation of NGOs in providing citizenship rights in the administrative system (Nov. 2017), and the notification of the Charter of Political Dialogue (Feb, 2018) have prepared for further activities and supervision by NGOs.

Fight against drug trafficking⁸⁸

93. Iran has suffered enormous human and material costs in the fight against narcotics over the past 40 years.⁸⁹ Each year, a number of anti-drug trafficking officers are martyred or injured during battles with gangs of smugglers.⁹⁰ Between 2015 and 2018, the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police carried out 8,238 operations, discovering a total of nearly 3,000 tons of different types of narcotics, which resulted in the death of 44 people and injury of 16 more. Despite the adopted measures, the number of discoveries has had an increasing trend which requires more international involvement.

Unilateral coercive measures⁹¹

94. Economic sanctions, as known as unilateral coercive measures, impede the full achievement of economic and social development, the enjoyment of number of rights contained in the Covenants (ICCPR & ICESCR) and other human rights documents, including the right to life, health, work, development, etc. Besides, the UCM and weaponizing the economy and currency could lead to economic terrorism targeting, the most vulnerable people and the life of civilians.

95. Extraterritorial application of national laws and regulation by the states is in contravention of fundamental principles and rules of international laws enshrined in the Charter of the UN, particularly the principal of the non-intervention in the internal affairs of the other States. The UN resolutions and positions of various international forums clearly indicate that the majority of the international community condemns the UCM because of its negative impacts of enjoyment of the human rights.⁹²

96. During the 27th session of HRC (September 2014), Iran, as one of the countries who had been facing the unilateral coercive measures, was one of the main sponsors of the resolution on "Human Rights and Unilateral Measures" and of the appointment of a Special

Rapporteur on this issue and agreed with the request of Mr. Idris Jazayeri to visit Iran in 2015.⁹³

97. The cruel and illegal economic sanctions by the United States, as a clear form of terrorism, have targeted the Iranian people. Withdrawal of the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on 8 May 2018 and re-imposition of its unilateral sanctions against Iran and its business partners, through intimidation of other countries to prevent trade and investment, is an evident example of economic terrorism which violates the principles that are enshrined in the United Nations Charter, including sovereignty, independence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and the freedom of trade and navigation.

98. In this regard, on 16 July 2018, the Islamic Republic of Iran filed an application together with a request of Provisional Measures to the International Court of Justice to protect its right under the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights between Iran and the United States which were infringed as result of the re-imposition of the sanction previously lifted under the JCPOA.

99. On 3 October 2018, the Court by its Order, unanimously declared that certain rights of Iran under the 1955 Treaty, such as purchase of goods for humanitarian needs, are of such a nature that disregard of them may entail irreparable consequences and that the United States shall remove impediments arising from measures announced on 8 May 2018 to the free exportation of food, medicine and medical devices as well as spare parts and services needed for the safety of civil aviation to Iran. Despite the binding nature of the ICJ Provisional Measures emphasized by the Court itself, and despite the United States alleged exemptions in this regard, the United States has in practice refrained to comply with the Order and said impediments not only persist, but have become more restrictive in practice, resulting in severe and negative impacts for human rights of the Iranian people.

Mines remaining from the imposed war⁹⁴

100. As a result of the mines from the imposed war, about 1,607 people were martyred and 5,950 people were injured by the mines. Under the governmental regulations, victims and survivors are supported.

101. About 15,169 mine-sweeping operations have been carried out in five provinces of Khuzestan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Kurdistan and West Azarbaijan. Also, with the establishment of emergency teams at mine-sweeping sites, 3,533 operations were carried out. In this regard, The International Mine-Sweeping Training Complex has been established with the aim of related trainings. Also a Memorandum of Understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Office of the Red Crescent was signed in 2016. Nevertheless, international assistance and cooperation with Iran in addressing this issue is very low.

International humanitarian law⁹⁵

102. With regard to the widespread war and the activities of terrorist groups in the countries of the region over the past few years, which have resulted in extensive disasters and human sufferings, as well as occurrences of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, Iran has played a key role in providing humanitarian aid to victims. In this context, Iran has been collaborating with relevant international and regional mechanisms and forums including the ICRC.

103. Providing humanitarian aid to Libya, Yemen, Albania, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Somalia, India, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Azerbaijan, Ecuador, the State of Palestine, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Haiti, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Armenia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and IFRC, as well as the ICRC is worth mentioning. As for family re-union, one may refer to cases of assistance of Iranian families living abroad, to rejoin their families, and also for foreign nationals.

104. Following the recent floods in the country, which began from 16 March 2019, and the severe damages to more than 4,697 urban and rural areas, RCS,⁹⁶ Imam Khomeini

Relief Committee⁹⁷ and IRHF⁹⁸ (and other relevant executive departments⁹⁹), accompanied by contributions from people and a number of countries and international organizations, provided humanitarian assistance to the affected people. The imposition of unilateral illegal sanctions has created very serious barriers on the way of transferring international donations.

Technical and development assistance to developing countries

105. In accordance with the Constitutional Principles on the commitment to provide assistance to disadvantaged countries, as well as the commitments undertaken in pursuance of the 8th MDG and the 17th goal of the 2030 SDGs, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made enormous humanitarian assistance to those countries, including some neighboring States. Those activities were carried out in the framework of international standards, and mainly in the form of donation of required goods, construction of clinics, schools, water dams, bridges, roads, various construction projects, as well as long-term loans with no interest, in billions of dollars.

III. Challenges and constraints

106. The UPR mechanism is a unique process that examines the human rights situation of all UN Member States, periodically, and provides for an opportunity for improvement of the human rights situation through the adoption of the required measures. Nevertheless, the provision of a large number of recommendations by the Member States makes it difficult for the State under review, to make follow-ups and implement them, which is the most important stage of the UPR process.

107. In addition, the efforts by certain countries to politicize this mechanism may divert it from its main goals. The politicization of the nature of the recommendations made by countries affects the comprehensiveness and integrity of human rights.

108. The imposition of the extensive unilateral illegal measures and secondary sanctions against Iran, despite the Security Council Resolution (2231) and the constructive cooperation of Iran with the international community has been one of the most important challenges facing the implementation of recommendations.

109. The order of the International Court of Justice on 3 October 2018 noted that international financial transactions have been made impossible for Iranian companies and Iranian citizens to make supplies such as food, medical equipment and facilities. The restrictions on imports and purchases of required goods for humanitarian needs such as food and medicine, including rescue drugs, treatment of chronic illnesses or preventive care and medical equipment, have had a devastating impact on the health and rights of people in Iran. In this regard, the international community is highly expected to take fundamental measures against such measures, which are in violation of the United Nations Charter and fundamental human rights instruments, and violate the fundamental rights of peoples and endangers peace and security.

110. Unilateral measures, while negatively affecting international cooperation in combating corruption and creating barriers to implementing the relevant resolutions of the HRC, particularly resolution 34/11 on the full implementation of the Convention against Corruption and promotion of international cooperation on return of proceeds derived through the commission of an offence, prevent effective support for victims and full realization of their right to justice in cases of transnational crime. Considering the complementary nature of some international legal frameworks on human rights and fight against corruption, unilateral measures have affected the enjoyment of those rights.

111. Unilateral measures have affected the international cooperation in combating human trafficking, as a transnational crime, and in particular, it has affected the possibility of protecting victims, especially Iranian nationals who are victims of human trafficking, and in some cases, in practice, the possibility of a collective and appropriate regional response to human trafficking, in particular in its organized forms, has been faced with barriers, as a cause of the unilateral coercive measures.

112. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the major victims of terrorism, and at the same time, as one of the strongest combatants against this phenomenon, believes that terrorism and extremism have led to gross violations of human rights and it has also threatened the political, social and economic development of nations. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the adoption of a dual approach to countries, with regard to terrorism, is not only unconstructive, but also contributes to the deviation of efforts in the global fight against terrorism and, ultimately, to strengthening and further growth of terrorism.

113. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the "Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran" and the appointment of the Special Rapporteur as a political, selective and unfair process and on the basis of double standards, which, unfortunately, has been pursued by certain Western countries with the aim of achieving political goals. Such a purposeful approach is not only in contradiction with fundamental human rights principles and norms, but also, in practice, undermines the promotion and protection of human rights.

Notes

- ¹ A/HRC/RES/5/1, A/HRC/RES/16/21, A/HRC/DEC/17/119.
- ² Recommendations: 138.25, 138.26, 138.28, 138.29, 138.30, 138.31, 138.32, 138.33, 138.34, 138.35, 138.36, 138.37, 138.38, 138.39, 138.40, 138.41, 138.42, 138.43, 138.44, 138.289, 138.6, 138.7, 138.8, 138.89, 138.90.
- ³ Through the establishment of a system for handling complaints and reports, from the beginning of 2015 to the end of the first nine months of 2018, a total of 200,232 complaints and reports have been received and handled, and on their settlement (fixing the problem of the plaintiff, lack of maladministration, or investigation and notification of proposals), the case files were terminated. The cases have been closed.
- ⁴ Recommendations: 138.26, 138.51, 138.55, 138.56, 138.65, 138.67, 138.68, 138.77, 138.79, 138.80, 138.82, 138.83, 138.85, 138.86, 138.54, 138.69, 138.72, 138.73, 138.74, 138.75, 138.76, 138.78, 138.81, 138.84, 138.214.
- ⁵ Recommendation: 138.290.
- ⁶ Recommendations: 138.49, 138.60, 138.61, 138.62, 138.63, 138.64, 138.272.
- ⁷ Currently, there are 10 clinics operating in Qazvin, Yazd, Alborz, East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Isfahan, Gilan, Fars and Lorestan provinces.
- ⁸ Recommendations: 138.250, 138.252, 138.261, 138.270, 138.271, 138.273, 138.274, 138.111, 138.118.
- ⁹ The population of the country's students in the academic year of 2018-2019 is 14,017,160, of which 48.35% are girls.
- ¹⁰ From the academic year 2012–2013 to 2018–2019, a number of 156,184 drop-out students have been recognized and to the educational system. In the nomadic areas, 17,167 deprived-of-study students have been identified whose rate of attraction has increase from 38% in 2014, to 53% in 2018.
- ¹¹ Pre-school coverage has risen from 56.6% in the academic year 2015–2016 to 70.1% in the academic year 2017–2018. This coverage has increased from 45.8% to 50% in rural areas.
- ¹² According to the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Executive Instruction of the Ministry of Education, a number of 10,263 of qualified children, who did not have identity documents, benefitted from the law and were enrolled in the school year of 2018–2019, 4,989 students of whom were girls.
- ¹³ In addition to free education, they enjoy educational, counseling and rehabilitation services for students with disabilities.
- ¹⁴ On the basis of the Memorandum of Cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Norwegian Immigration Council and the Relief Organization, the Literacy Movement Organization has identified and enrolled 26,616 foreign nationals and immigrants.
- ¹⁵ For volunteers in less-developed areas, quotas have been set up for the purpose of educational justice, and in order to assist volunteers with disabilities, facilities are considered during the exam and they benefit from the quota of less-developed areas.
- ¹⁶ Recommendations: 138.250, 138.252, 138.253, 138.261, 138.264, 138.265, 138.266, 138.267, 138.268, 138.269, 138.270, 138.135.
- ¹⁷ Reducing the mortality rate for children under one year of age from 13 deaths in a thousand live births in 2016 to 12.47 in 2017.
- ¹⁸ According to the national document on nutrition and food security in all medical universities of the country.
- ¹⁹ Though implementing the "Irapen" (the program of basic interventions against non-communicable diseases) program and self-care approach.
- ²⁰ The rural family physician scheme covers rural and nomadic areas with a population of less than

- 20,000. It covers 28 million people in rural areas and 580 thousand people in nomadic areas. About 22 million of them hold health insurance cards.
- 21 Paragraph 18, Article 4, of the Family Protection Act (approved in 2012). According to this law, a special branch has been established to address the issue of bisexuals.
- 22 Under the law, the Social Insurance Fund for Farmers, Villagers and Nomads is active and two thirds of the premiums paid by villagers, nomads and farmers is paid by the Government.
- 23 Recommendation: 138.262.
- 24 The Housing Foundation, the Mostaz'afan Foundation and the philanthropist active in building houses have constructed a total of 70,112 residential units or have helped with their purchase. Also, a total of 2,201,488 of Mehr residential units, including 439,400 rural units, were constructed and delivered to applicants.
- 25 Recommendation: 138.263.
- 26 Recommendations: 138.93, 138.108, 138.252, 138.253, 138.275, 138.276, 138.277, 138.278, 138.279, 138.280.
- 27 Revision and amendment of the law passed in 2004.
- 28 Promotion of the level of the culture of the society on the phenomenon of the elderly, empowerment of the elderly, preserving and promoting the physical, mental and social health of the elderly, promoting social assets and social protections, developing the infrastructure needed for the elderly and for the financial security of the system on protecting elderly, are the six main objectives of this document. The Secretariat of the National Council for the Elderly of the Country is responsible for coordinating the appropriate implementation of the objectives and policies of the document.
- 29 The organization has also paid for the kindergarten tuition fee of children with disabilities from low-income families.
- 30 Drafting and notification of the checklist of the requirements for peripherals and public buildings, to municipalities, throughout the country for inclusion in the licensing process and on the time of issuing the completion-of-construction document; Continuous assessment of the progress of the implementation of adaptation in the buildings of the executive departments, on an annual basis, and the allocation of advantages in the realization of the relevant programs; Holding of more than 150 training courses on the rules and requirements for adaptation of peripherals and public buildings.
- 31 The IRIB has produced 3,542 hours of social awareness programs from 2015 to 2017. In 2018, 52% of the programs were allocated for children with disabilities.
- 32 Adopted in 2011 and revised in 2018.
- 33 As for higher education, in accordance with Article 9 of the Act on protection for persons with disabilities, the qualified disadvantaged people with disabilities, at different ages, can enjoy free higher education on the introduction of SWO. By the end of the school year 2017–2018, the number of students with disabilities in universities and higher education centers was 15,475, of which 1,499 were studying in governmental universities.
- 34 Including credit enhancement for rehabilitation of students with learning disorders and launching of 50 new centers for learning disorders, in the educational regions of the country, to counter the slow learning phenomenon of students, promotion of credits for improving the education and rehabilitation of students with comprehensive developmental disorders (suffering from autism) and provision of para-clinical, hospital, continuous medicine, dentistry, and interventional rehabilitation services instruments.
- 35 Article 52 of the law on the standing orders on development of the country, the Articles 78, 80 and 82 of the Law on the Sixth Development Plan, and Articles 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15 of the Act on Protection of Rights of the disabled, adopted in 2017 have made stipulations for basic protections for the employment of people with disabilities; and provisions of Articles 27 and 28 of this law have provided for administrative and employment supports.
- 36 The most important activities of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs toward creation of sustainable employment opportunities include support for employment (47,084 people), self-employment assistance (28,901 people), job and professional empowerment (5,611 people) as well as financial and credit support.
- 37 Recommendations: 138.250, 138.254, 138.255, 138.256, 138.257, 138.258, 138.259, 138.260.
- 38 Based on the Act on the Sixth Development Plan, the Government is required to promote economic development and job creation, annually, in five thousand villages, considering local potentials, securing 30% of the villages at risk, developing infrastructure of electronic services, preparing employment for one hundred thousand people, annually, empowering the people under the coverage of SWO and the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, granting 1% of the import and export customs income of free-trade zones for poverty alleviation of indigenous people.
- 39 Also, provision of technical and vocational education to 1,034,988 people / training course and job search for more than 70 thousand people.
- 40 Investments in more than 40 thousand economic and infrastructure projects; construction of 1,550

- schools, 1,200 cultural centers and 30 thousand residential units; commissioning of 1,110 water supply and electricity supply projects; construction of 11 hospitals and 159 comprehensive health and treatment centers; provision of medicine for 70 thousand cancer patients; granting of no-interest loans to 80 thousand people, issuance of one million insurance contracts in deprived regions and villages; treatment of 10 thousand infertile couples in rural areas since the establishment (2007) until now.
- ⁴¹ Recommendations: 138.88, 138.94, 138.249, 138.250, 138.251.
- ⁴² Articles 2 (Para. e), 80, 82, and 103 of the Sixth Development Plan Law, Articles 10 and 12 of the Act on Comprehensive Protection of Persons with Disabilities, Article 52 of the Law on Standing Orders of Development.
- ⁴³ The share of employment has been in the three major sectors, including 32% in the industrial sector, 17.7% in the agricultural sector and 53.3% in the service sector.
- ⁴⁴ By the central bank (equivalent to 28 trillion Riyals) and other operating banks (equivalent to 13,207 billion Rials).
- ⁴⁵ Since 2011, the payment of support facilities to women's employment plans has had an increasing trend. About 30% of the Government's funding resources have been allocated to the plans initiated by women.
- ⁴⁶ Also offering of technical and vocational trainings by NGOs and free institutes for 2,559,244 people.
- ⁴⁷ Implementation of 10 projects and follow up for the implementation of 10 projects from 2015 to the first half of 2018 in 14 provinces of the country.
- ⁴⁸ Recommendations: 138.87, 138.93, 138.97, 138.98, 138.99, 138.101, 138.103, 138.104, 138.107, 138.108, 138.109, 138.110, 138.187, 138.194, 138.198, 138.199, 138.217, 138.240, 138.241, 138.242, 138.243, 138.244, 138.246, 138.247, 138.248, 138.252, 138.91, 138.92, 138.95, 138.100, 138.102, 138.106, 138.111, 138.112, 138.190, 138.192, 138.193, 138.195, 138.196.
- ⁴⁹ According to the bill, the offspring of Iranian women who are married to foreign men may be granted Iranian citizenship at the request of their Iranian mother, before the age of 18.
- ⁵⁰ Between 2015 and the first 9 months of 2108, women's share of total public and nongovernmental education, with the motivation of women's empowerment in employment, was more than 32%, in the governmental sector, and more than 73% in the nongovernmental sector.
- ⁵¹ The training of entrepreneurship skills and home-based jobs for women, from 2015 to the first 6 months of 2018, was 25,999 and 271,150 person-course, respectively.
- ⁵² As for the women's presence in the structure of power and political participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one could make reference to the appointment of women as the Cabinet Ministers, the Deputy-President, member of the Parliament, judges, the governors and the mayor and the county governors, the Deputy-Ministers for women's affairs, the director generals of the women's affairs of the provincial governors, as well as managers, director-generals and deputies of Ministries and government departments. There are more than 10 specialized decision-making and strategic organizations operating in the field of women.
- ⁵³ Including the development of a roadmap for the prevention of violence; managing and leading provincial potentials through the establishment of a comprehensive plan for prevention of violence in provinces and further notification to all related departments by the Prevention Council; holding more than 80 workshops, specialized designed for judges in the field of children and women, social workers, law enforcement officials, judicial staff, NGOs and religious organizations and institutions, launching of the comprehensive bank of crime prevention watchdogs of the Judiciary with a prospect of 1,500,000 members throughout the country and organizing 51,026 of male prevention watchdogs, and 10,692 female prevention watchdogs as well as drafting educational booklets.
- ⁵⁴ Recommendations: 138.45, 138.87, 138.93, 138.99, 138.108, 138.110, 138.194, 138.217, 138.252, 138.156.
- ⁵⁵ Article 1173 of the Civil Code, Article 2 of the Law on Protection of Children and Juveniles, adopted in 2002, and Article 25 of the Law on Protection of Children and Juveniles with no or bad guardian, adopted in 2013.
- ⁵⁶ Article 91 of the Islamic Penal Code.
- ⁵⁷ Recommendation: 138.48.
- ⁵⁸ Article 94 of the Law of the Sixth Program obliges the Government to allocate a percentage of the value added tax for the development of sports in schools, public sports, international federations, Zurkhaneh (traditional) sports and wrestling, rural, nomads and women sports, and creation of sports facilities for persons with disabilities.
- ⁵⁹ Recommendations: 138.20, 138.281, 138.285, 138.6, 138.7, 138.8, 138.113, 138.286.
- ⁶⁰ In each academic year, more than 2 trillion Rials are spent for refugees and asylum seeker students by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. There are also 16,500 foreign national students studying in higher education institutions.
- ⁶¹ Based on paragraph (b) of Article 70 of the Sixth Development Plan Law.
- ⁶² For example, the Daheshpour Charity Foundation focuses on cancer patients, their medicine costs,

- and their treatment and also on establishment of social work units. The Foundation has also contributed to the cost of education for Afghan citizens suffering from cancer.
- ⁶³ Recommendations: 138.50, 138.53, 138.219, 138.220, 138.221, 138.114, 138.111, 138.113, 138.117, 138.118, 138.119, 138.122, 138.127, 138.131, 138.282, 138.284.
- ⁶⁴ According to the latest results of the general census of population and housing in 2016, the Iranian population is 79,926,270 people, of which 79,598,054 are Muslim (99.39%), 23,109 people are Zoroastrian, 130,158 people are Christian and 9,826 people are Jewish.
- ⁶⁵ The per-capita religious spaces of religious minorities is almost double that of Muslims. Christians have more than 250 churches throughout the country, and there is a church for every population of almost less than 500 people. Also, the Jews possess 16 synagogues and the Zoroastrians have 78 worship places.
- ⁶⁶ Since 2013, an amount of 115 billion Rials have been allocated to provide services and facilities to minorities. In 2016, the municipality of Tehran built a sports center for Armenians, with a budget of 22 billion Rials (equivalent to 628 thousand dollars).
- ⁶⁷ There is one association for every 2,600 minority people. Since 2015, 53 permits have been issued and extended for religious minority associations. Religious minorities, in Iran, have over 80 NGOs in various fields as well as research centers on religious sciences.
- ⁶⁸ Alik newspaper, Peyman quarterly and Araks monthly, Ararat, Apaga Ayandeh, Lewis Noor monthly, and Hovis Two-Weekly, in Armenian and Persian languages; John's Center Publications, belonging to the Catholic Church of the Chaldeans; Payame Ashourian monthly; Zoroastrian publications: 1 Mordad weekly, Pars Emrouz monthly, Forouhar Monthly, Chista, Rasti print house, etc.
- ⁶⁹ Such as the Bachelors degree in Armenian language and literature in Isfahan University and Islamic Azad University.
- ⁷⁰ In accordance with Note 1 of Article 1 of the Law on the Goals and Duties of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry is required to arrange, in areas where other Islamic denominations are based, for religious teaching of students of the denominations in accordance with their school of thought.
- ⁷¹ Enjoying the rights of citizenship; carrying out sectarian activities such as performing rituals every 19 days; holding sectarian educational classes for the children, juvenile and the youngsters of the sect; preparation and distributing Baha'i publications and pamphlets among sect members; registration of marriage in the identifications (Shenasnameh) of the Baha'i couples; education in schools and universities in Iran; enjoying public insurance; obtaining business licenses; buying, selling and owning movable and immovable property freely; obtaining licenses to establish companied and construction permits; access to bank facilities, etc.
- ⁷² Recommendations: 138.66, 138.224, 138.235, 138.236, 138.239, 138.193, 138.226, 138.229, 138.231, 138.234, 138.237.
- ⁷³ Including newspapers, weekly journals, monthlies, quarterlies, news bases and so on.
- ⁷⁴ Organizations and institutions are required to provide the demanded information through this system, within a maximum of 10 days.
- ⁷⁵ Style sheet for publication and open access to the information of private institutions providing public services; style sheet to publication and open access to non-governmental organizations; style sheet and open access to information NGOs and style sheet for settlement of disputes on the procedure of providing information (with the purpose of handling the complaints and objections of information applicants).
- ⁷⁶ Recommendations: 138.27, 138.206, 138.213, 138.204, 138.205, 138.208, 138.209, 138.210, 138.211, 138.212, 138.226, 138.234, 138.186, 138.184, 138.185, 138.183, 138.207, 138.216.
- ⁷⁷ Speedy handling of cases and disputes, especially through peace and reconciliation, with the participation of popular forces is amongst the important features of the dispute resolution councils. According to the above law, religious minorities may have their own special dispute settlement councils. Therefore, branches have been allocated in regions of the country where religious minorities live with a significant percentage of the population. Also, since 2014, specialized branches are established for prisons, which have helped with settlement and termination of cases through peace and reconciliation.
- ⁷⁸ Independence of the Judiciary has been recognized in accordance with Article 156 of the Constitution, and judges are independent in accordance with Principles 164 and 166 of the Constitution.
- ⁷⁹ Under the pardon system, which is one of the most important legal institutions in the laws of the country, 1,755 people have been pardoned from the sentence of deprivation of life, from 2015 to the first 9 months of 2018. In other punishments, a number of 810 women, 239 foreign nationals and 137 people under the age of 18 have been pardoned. Also, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, 85,000 people were pardoned in February 2018.
- ⁸⁰ "Confessions derived under reluctance, coercion, tortured under physical or mental persecution are worthless and invalid, and the court is required to re-interrogate the accused."

- ⁸¹ The Secretariat of oversight on Citizenship Rights has received and handled 3,275 complaints and reports, through the complaint system, in relation with civil rights violations. Between 2015 and 2018, a number of 28,504 inspections were carried out to prosecutors' offices, prisons and detention centers.
- ⁸² The number of health packages provided from 2014 to the first half of 2018, were, respectively, 513,942, 303,981, 355,370, 663,545, and 320,034 packages. There were also 625,359, 769,485, 907,190, 778,313, 496,344 person-hour educational courses, on health and prevention, were held for prisoners.
- ⁸³ In the agreement with the center of lawyers and legal advisers of the Judiciary and a number of bar associations, free judicial assistance is provided to prisoners. Social and judicial assistance units also provide legal counsel to prisoners.
- ⁸⁴ Between 2014 and 2017, there were, respectively, 14,555, 24,027, 24,251, 23,853 persons enjoyed free education and in the same period, 1,099, 764, 1,109, and 1,170 students participated in entrance examinations of higher education institutions.
- ⁸⁵ Between 2014 and 2017, 22,734, 19,955, 20,990, 20,927 people have had productive employments, and 89,354, 80,011, 68,795, 84,000 individuals have passed vocational training courses.
- ⁸⁶ Also, 205 Associations of Support of Prisoners throughout the country have been supporting prisoners, the family of prisoners and released prisoners.
- ⁸⁷ Recommendations: 138.57, 138.58, 138.59, 138.224.
- ⁸⁸ Recommendation: 138.181.
- ⁸⁹ According to the 2016 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Islamic Republic of Iran, accounting for 17% of the total amount of heroin seizures, 61% of the total of morphine findings, 75% of the total amount of opium seizures, is the forerunner of the struggle against narcotics in the world.
- ⁹⁰ Until 2015, more than 4,000 police officers were martyred in the fight.
- ⁹¹ Recommendations: 138.46, 138.47, 138.52.
- ⁹² The United Nations General Assembly, in its 71st session in 2016, under the Resolution "Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures", emphasized that the continuation of Unilateral Coercive Measures, and their implementation by some powers, which have had extra-territorial impacts, is condemned and considered those measures as one of the main obstacles to the realization of the right to development.
- According to the UNCTAD Summit held in June 2016, the statement of Group 77 at its annual session of 23 September 2016, in New York and the document of 17th Summit of the Movement, held in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) in 2016, unilateral measures are condemned.
- ⁹³ Iran responded positively to the request of the Special Rapporteur to send information on unilateral actions, and in a report, provided information to him in early 2016. This is also mentioned in the report of the Special Rapporteur to the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council.
- ⁹⁴ Recommendation: 138.182.
- ⁹⁵ Recommendations: 138.287, 138.288, 138.291.
- ⁹⁶ By receiving public and governmental contributions (more than 2 trillion USD) as well as international assistance, the Red Crescent Society of Iran has done the following: resettlement of 314,613 people across the country; evacuation of 9,159 people to safe areas; establishment of 24 mobile health centers; provision of home appliances to 40,000 households; distribution of 58,676 tents and 236,205 food packages and other essential livelihoods and 117,188 health kits.
- ⁹⁷ While providing essential goods for flood victims in 8 provinces of the country, 322 residential units are under construction and 380 units under reconstruction by Imam Khomeini Relief Committee.
- ⁹⁸ With the establishment of certain headquarters in damaged areas, the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation has taken measures to assess the level of damages to residential and commercial units and it has provided temporary accommodation for the victims through the construction of temporary accommodation, delivery of conexas, or rent-payment assistance. Considering the extent of damages, the Foundation has provided grants and low-interest bank facilities for the financial empowerment of the flood victims to help them with reconstruction of their houses and livelihood costs.
- ⁹⁹ The Executive Headquarters for Imam Khomeini's (p.b.u.h.) Decree has been engaged with creation of 13,500 employment opportunities for those who lost their businesses due to floods. The Headquarters provided 30,000 packages of home appliances, 10,000 light live stocks, 33,000 school stationeries and 20,000 cases of financial assistance for house repairs for the flood victims.