

In the Name of God the Beneficent the Merciful

Statement by Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

On Clustered Interactive Dialogue with:

SR on the right to food and SR on adequate housing

19 Session of HRC

6 March 2012

Madam, President,

My delegation would like to extend its appreciation to Ms. Raquel Rolnik, for her comprehensive report on women and their rights to adequate housing.

Madam, President,

Unfortunately, key issues related to the woman's right to adequate housing such as violence against women and its relationship to housing; the impact of forced evictions on women and gender discrimination in law, custom and practices related to housing still exist in most of the countries, especially with respect to indigenous people; and even current economic challenges and human induced disasters like conflicts have turned the clock back for the women and their right to adequate housing.

To full realization of right to adequate housing, in particular, for women, taking care of family, Islamic Republic of Iran has taken considerable steps. Increased public housing budget since 2008, especially in the form of MEHR Housing Project is one of the Iran's government persistent efforts. This plan has not only slashed the housing prices, but also has

raised the low income families' expectancy to become owner. In this regard, the government has also facilitated the process of providing home loans, especially for the women in charge of taking care of the family. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also passed a new amendment in its civil code that allows women to inherit all forms of their spouses' property.

Madam, President,

Turning to the Right to Food, my delegation would like to express its gratitude to Mr. Olivier De Schutter for his in-depth report.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken steps in its first to fifth Development Plans to ensure the sufficiency and accessibility of food to the people. In this regard, the concerned national organizations exert considerable efforts toward establishing a diverse farming system that ensure accessibility of adequate diets to all.

In fact, the rapid population growth in the Islamic republic of Iran over the last twenty years has brought greater attention to the agricultural sectors and renewable resources. Therefore, with the implementation of the programs for agricultural expansion towards the creation of food security over the past years, the country has attained appreciable success. Self-sufficiency and self-reliance in the provision of over 95 percent of the society's consumption in the field of food products, and the increase of the per capita consumption of food, is an indicator of the provision of the food needs of the country.

In the same vain, the Welfare Organization, in co-operation with the Ministry of Health & Medical Education, and the UNICEF, have carried out a number of projects in the area of proper nutrition of the new-born, children, pregnant women, the elderly, the disabled, and the sick.

Madam, President,

Considerable and hard international and national efforts have been made to reach sustainable diets, but, definitely, these are not sufficient. As the rapporteur has dealt with, many initiatives based on human rights approach such as initiatives for improving structures causes of an equitable food system that is sufficiently inclusive of the poorest, small scale farmers and that reduce rural poverty must be adopted.

Thank you, Madam President