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Statement

by

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on

**“the Progress Report of the Working Group
on the Universal Periodic Review”**

at the 2nd Session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 2nd October 2006

In the Name of God

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to express our appreciation of the efforts made by the Ambassador of Morocco in leading the work of the Working Group on the UPR.

Our views on various elements of the UPR have already been expressed in the several rounds of informal consultations and contained in a working paper submitted by my delegation. However, we wish to present today further elaboration on the process of developing the new mechanism of the UPR.

As it has been said the objective of the UPR, is not to assume the functions of a tribunal. Rather, it is meant to be a cooperative mechanism based on an interactive dialogue, with full involvement of the State concerned. The idea behind the UPR is that the Human rights Council counts on an effective instrument to reduce selectivity and politicization and not duplicate the functions of other mechanisms of the human rights system.

If we are committed to the principle of equal treatment for all States, it becomes clear that the same process of preparations, examinations and interactive dialogue and their outcome should apply to all countries.

Clearly, the UPR is designed to be a mechanism for cooperation rather than a tool for confrontation, aiming at enhancing the capacity of States to promote and protect human rights, with an outcome reached primarily with the agreement of the country concerned. It should not duplicate the outcome of other human rights mechanisms so as not to create unnecessary burdens for States. Surely, the confrontational approach for outcome entails the risk of politicization and double standard within the new mechanism.

Furthermore, we are of the view that the review should be conducted on the basis of response of the country concerned to a standardized set of questions. The Council could adopt a sample questionnaire to be used in the elaboration of the presentation of the self- assessment by the State concerned. The review nature of the UPR suggests for an intergovernmental process. To ensure transparency, the interactive dialogue with the country under review should be conducted within the Council in a plenary session to be made public and open to all. Space for a genuine interactive dialogue with the State concerned at the final stage

of the process is needed.

Mr. President,

The efficiency of the UPR will depend on its concrete Outcome and Follow –up mechanism. Iran supports those delegations who have suggested the publications by the OHCHR, of a global report covering all countries. It might provide a universal view of the situations of human rights in every country.

Finally, Iran believes that the UPR mechanism will only be effective if it is carried out in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation. It might be an opportunity to understand the reality of each country on the ground as well as an opportunity to improve its capacity – building in the filed of human rights.

Thank you