

Statement by the
Islamic Republic of Iran
14th Session of HRC
ID with SRs and IE on
Right to health and extreme poverty
7 June 2010

Mr. President,

At the outset, I wish to thank the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women and the right to health as well as the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty for their reports and presentations.

Mr. President,

We have noted the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health. We deeply regret that the Special Rapporteur in his report has chosen to reflect upon controversial issues, such as sexual orientation which is neither internationally recognized human rights issue nor falls within the mandate of the Special Rapporteur both from the substance as well as legal aspects. In our view, the Special Rapporteur by referring to these controversial issues has gone beyond his mandate. We also believe that recommendation made for decriminalization sexual orientation, which is not supported by any international instruments and contradicts the right of sovereign states to enact laws in accordance with their legal system norms and standards. We reiterate that such approach is totally unacceptable and put reports and recommendations of this kind in a very biased perspective.

Mr. President,

On the question of human rights and extreme poverty, on the eve of the second decade of the 21st century, the world faces renewed challenges in the fight against poverty and this

phenomenon continues to be a major concern of the international community. Nowadays, extreme poverty remains a daily reality for more than 850 million people around the world, and the number is growing rapidly. Meanwhile, according to the recent official assessments, the impact of global financial and economic crisis will leave an additional 64 million people in extreme poverty by the end of 2010.

Mr. President,

Although, the main responsibility in this regard remains on governments, considering the vast and numerous financial difficulties in some developing countries, the international assistance must also play a significant role. Already, States have made a number of public political commitments underlining the shared international responsibility for poverty reduction and the need for a partnership among developed and developing countries against extreme poverty. Despite these obligations, unfortunately, most Governments are consistently failing to honour their longstanding commitments to reach a target of 0.7 percent of gross national product for official development assistance.

Mr. President,

In reality, the current world economic and financial order persists to be unfair and calls for fundamental changes and generating new and innovative methods. Hence, we cannot expect to meet and overcome the challenges such as extreme poverty with the present outlook and instruments. This requires, first and foremost, political will, favorable international atmosphere and access to adequate resources and opportunities, particularly at the international level. On the other hand, poverty eradication needs the collective efforts of all role players, including governments, international organizations, non-governmental and the private sectors.

In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran not only has made significant progress towards achieving the MDGs at the national level, particularly in the field of poverty eradication,

but also is playing a constructive role at the international scene, through inter-alia: providing financial supports to the OIC Poverty Alleviation Fund, and also contributing to the developmental activities of the developing countries through OPEC Fund.

Thank you,

