

Statement by Islamic Republic of Iran

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

On Enhancement of International Cooperation

In the Field of Human Rights

12th session of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

24 February 2014, Geneva.

Mr. Chair

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the NAM.

At the outset, we would like to thank the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee for preparing the Draft Progress Report on the Practical Ways and Means of Enhancing International Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights in line with the Human Rights Council Resolution HRC/23/6. In his regard, NAM shares it with a number of points raised in the draft report, particularly in enhancing the effort to realize the right to development in post-2015 development agenda, practical suggestions and deepening south-south cooperation in the human rights area.

We would also like to highlight the following remarks:

-The NAM reaffirms that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations and also the primary responsibility of States to promote, protect and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation. In this regard, we recognize that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue in all relevant forums, including in the context of the universal periodic review, and be aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human

rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings.

-The movement reaffirms that dialogue among and within cultures and civilizations facilitates the promotion of a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity. The different historical, regional, religious, cultural and national particularities and backgrounds, social systems, levels of development and concepts of values make it natural to have different views on the human rights issues. In this regard, respect for cultural diversity of the national and international level and the recognition of the fact that cultural diversity is a source of unity rather than division within the international community will indeed promote peace and security. It should also be acknowledged that cultural diversity is an asset and enriches the human common cultural heritage. Hence, advancing a policy of cultural hegemony at the international level should be avoided.

- International cooperation in the field of human rights should pave the way for the better realization of the right to development. Development of Member States of the United Nations in all aspects of modern life is an instrument of peace and security. Prosperity and growth of the peoples and nations is the mainstream of promotion and protection of human rights. The international cooperation should provide necessary mechanisms to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. In this regard, upholding the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the UN and its specialized agencies, programs and funds as well as in policies and strategies of the international financial and multilateral trading systems are of crucial importance.

Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in

particular the role of OHCHR in the field of technical cooperation based on the needs of states and with their consent is of paramount importance for effective implementation of the obligations set.

Finally, the NAM is of the view of that the south-south cooperation in the human rights area, should be based on recognition of national sovereignty, equality of all states and mutual respect between them in order to strengthen multilateralism in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, we would like to seize this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee for organizing this profitable session. We do hope that this discussion will be resulted in practical steps and necessary measures with a view to further enhance of International cooperation in the field of Human Rights.

Thank you,