Date: 21 October 2016

Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities OHCHR-UNOG;

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**Subject: Submission on persons with disabilities rights in the context of the provision of support to persons with disabilities**

*Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 26/20, and at the call of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, the Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) consulted with the people with disabilities NGOs and some governmental actors. It should be highlighted that* *the mutual cooperation and counselling between civil organizations and IHRC has been increased in the last couple of years and still is growing. For the mandate, the IHRC has concluded all the discussions related to the theme of this questionnaire as following:*

Q1. On Iran, a million and three hundreds disables are living under the governmental protection`s programs (Some unofficial statistics claim that the number of disables in Iran reaches 3 million). The responsible organization assigned to attend the special needs people, is State Welfare Organization of Iran which its president is the vice-minister of welfare. In addition to this organization, there is another organization called "Issar" working for the benefits of the martyrs' families and veterans with disabilities. The president of Issar is the vice-president of the country. These two organizations vary in terms and regulations. As Iran is a party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, both aforesaid organizations are in charge of national arrangements for the implementation of the convention.

* 1. The accessibility of public places, recreations and fitness centers; the production of accessible vehicles; the participation of disables in the related festivals as well as national and international sport championships have been developed in the recent years. As the participation of disables and related NGOs in national policy making is concerned, the representative of disable `s NGOs are allowed to take a part in various policy-making councils. In the process of law amendments at the executive branch and parliament, disability rights advocates constantly play a consultative role.
  2. Currently, the Comprehensive National Disability Law is enhancing to illuminate more aspects of protection. Noting that the pilot of the Comprehensive Veterans Law is practicing which ends in next two months and it seems to be repeated again by the parliament.
  3. In Iran`s law and regulations, the protection of disables or veterans with disability are carried in various form such as; payment of monthly benefits, providing employment opportunity, equal participation in public affairs, housing protection (especially for those family with more than one disable person), insurance protection, accessibility and rehabilitation products & supplies.

Q2. Apart from the law of free publications and access to information by which not only people with disabilities but also all the citizens are eligible to seek for information from any organization and institute of their interest; disables will learn about the relevant information from their representatives participating in governmental mechanisms. If any organization or institution be reluctant to provide disables with the requested information, according to the aforesaid law disable people can make complain at the assigned observatory commission. It should also be noted that since the application of this law has not been satisfying, IHRC has a special mechanism to follow up the related violations.

Q3. According to the disables protection policy and governmental regulations & bylaws in Iran, an age range is allocated to the disables and also disabled women, children and elderly are given extra protection.

Q4. The accurate required statistics are with the State Welfare Organization of Iran and till today, IHRC has not received any complain in regards to this matter.

Q5. State Welfare Organization of Iran cooperates with private sectors to provide services to its dependents and it seeks to further its cooperation.

Q6. Executive branch as well as related governmental commissions usually consulate with the disable advocates` representative but the organized participation of these advocates as counselors in the Judiciary has not been seen yet which is about to be fixed. Although in Judiciary system, there is a office which gives consultation to Issar`s organization.

Q7. In Iran, related authorities declared that 300 hundred thousand disables are in the waiting list of official protection. The State Welfare Organization`s authorities declare that they are trying to provide disables with the following:

* Expanding the working centers for people with disabilities
* Allocating more loans to the disabled entrepreneurs and educators
* Creating more employment opportunities for the people with disability
* Developing the accessibility in public places
* Strengthening the recreation and travel opportunities for the enjoyment of special needs people
* Making plans to increase the amount of monthly payment to the disables
* Following the rise of disability NGOs in figures
* Providing special needs with free rehabilitation products & supplies all over the country.

Yours sincerely

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**About us**

*Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) has more than two decades experience on human rights matters as an independent national institution within an Islamic society which has its own complicated social characteristic and since 2000 it has become the member of International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions. The IHRC has cooperated with National Human Right Institutions (NHRIs) worldwide, international and national NGOs to enhancing and boosting itself in becoming more effective mechanisms for the various developments in IHRC such as having a legal clinic for the benefits of those whose human rights is violated; localizing the universal values and norms with noting the national cultural values; publishing books and materials, translating recent worlds valuable writings on human rights, holding virtual and in person classes on the different aspects of human rights to educate and improve people`s knowledge on human right issue; observing the process on accurate implementation of Iran`s international obligations; creating national-wide networks of human rights advocates `volunteers; give advisory opinions to various governmental sectors and capacity building and empowering the society for fostering the human rights achievements, etc. Despite basic differences between NHRIs around the world, the fact remains that all NHRIs share common objectives formulated in the UN Paris Principles, and this commonality of objectives leads to common “effectiveness factors” that need to be in place.*