

Report of the secretary of National Body for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distinguished members of CRC

I am very pleased to have the opportunity as the Secretary of National Body for the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Islamic Republic to announce some of the actions and plans adopted by the Secretariat of the convention to this important meeting. One of the recommendations of the previous CRC was to establish a proactive and dynamic framework and mechanism for supervision and coordination in implementation of Convention on the Rights of the Child. To this end, at the beginning of 2011 the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran appointed Ministry of Justice as the national body and immediately necessary actions started to be conducted to establish the National Body when in 2012 the government ratified the regulations and the road map of the National Body with the consultation of various government as well as representatives from non-government bodies. According to these regulations, around 16 government institutions, representatives from NGOs as well as Bar association and clergies are present in the coordination council of the National Body. The body holds meeting bimonthly and the Justice Minister chairs the meeting as he is the head of the National Body and there are fully authorized representatives of the government as participants. The representatives of the NGOs are chosen through elections as it is stated in the regulation, it should be mentioned that the first round of the NGOs presence will end this year and at the moment the election process for the second round is being carried out.

Along with the Coordination Council there are four thematic sub working group. These working groups include:

- Monitoring and assessment

- Legal and Judicial
- Training and information
- Supporting and coordination

Working groups set up is based on a procedure which is adopted by the Minister. The National Body since its formation has taken various measures which are mentioned as follow:

- 1- Establishment of Comprehensive data base of Iran's Children and adolescent
- 2- Cooperation with UNICEF in Two-year and Five-year framework
- 3- Holding meetings and various specialized meetings on issues such as the role of religious leaders in preventing violence against children focusing on discrimination, ignorance and inattention, early and forced marriage and sexual violence
- 4- Visiting tens of child protection centers and evaluating them
- 5- Participation in province level and holding Coordination Council meeting in the women and family working groups format.

Distinguished Audiences

As a person who has 20 years of experience in child and adolescent rights along with many experts in these areas in the national level, we have created good opportunities to raise issues pertaining to children and restoring their rights. By considering the issue that "we should rely on existing capacities not the hindrances" we have tried to benefit the proper capacities in the country. Good relations with NGOs in the country, cooperation with media to recognize the problems, presence in academic and scientific center, benefiting the

religious leaders' capacity, using the outcomes of the scientific studies, proper ties with relevant judges and legal experts have made the National Body play a national and country wide role and due to its quick, dynamic structure in the Secretariat level (maximum full time staff of 5) it benefits other institutions and bodies' facilities that my colleagues will mention various aspects of these activities in this meeting.

♣ Training the Convention

The Secretariat of the National Body has launched a program on publishing the text of the Convention in simple language with graphics in association with UNICEF and recently in cooperation with one of the NGOs to train and inform the content of the Convention as well as holding several workshops on this issue in cooperation with NGOs and some efforts have been made to use some of the items of the Convention in the school text books.

♣ Periodical Reports

Regarding the general periodical reports, the Farsi versions of the reports are available in the website of the Ministry of Justice as well as they have been exclusively handed out to the representatives of the NGOs in the National Body. As it was mentioned, some efforts have been made to use the issues of the Convention in the school textbooks and at the moment in some text books of the high school child rights issues are generally used.

♣ Optional Protocol

Regarding the optional protocols, I should mention that the optional protocol on "the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography" has been signed by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and is being ratified by the Parliament and at the moment is considered as a law. Unfortunately an

independent report regarding this Protocol has not been provided but in the periodic report some references have been made to some of the measures and actions. At the moment some are working on making the executive report of this Protocol that after completion the report will be provided to the Rights of the Child Committee. Regarding the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, I should say that this Protocol has been signed and is being ratified through state specialized commissions and after that it will be sent to the Parliament as a bill and regarding the Protocol on a Communications Procedure, no official action has been taken yet and initial studies on the Protocol are being conducted in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs right now.

At the end I would like to once again thank for the opportunity I have had.

Thank you very much.