Comments by the Islamic Republic of Iran

On the Panel Discussion on “The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice”

18th HRC, 14 September 2011

Madam President,

We align ourselves with the statements made by the Pakistan and Egypt on behalf of the OIC and the NAM.

This year the international community is commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development. This occasion offers us a unique opportunity to work harder towards the realization of this right which reiterates the centrality of the maximum and equal ‘opportunity for all.’

However, it is a matter of concern that after elapsing almost a quarter of a century of the adoption of the Declaration, the international community didn’t achieve its noble goals and provisions and our progress towards effective implementation of the Right to Development has been rather sluggish.

Madam President,

The recent so-called Arab Spring in the Middle-East and North-Africa as well as economic, financial and food crises and the subsequent recession which, to some extent, reversed the hard-won developmental gains of the past 25 years, once again highlights the need to draft and adopt legally-binding international instruments.

There is also an urgent need for a structured and multidisciplinary dialogue between member states, UN agencies and financial and
developmental institutions to find ways and means to better implement the right to development.

Madam President,

Along with most countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches a great deal of importance to the Right to Development, while recognizing the indivisibility of all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights; we believe appropriate emphasis should be given to the different aspects of human rights – including the right to development. To this end, due attention to the barriers which hinder the natural development of countries – such as embargos, internal armed conflicts, wars and foreign occupation -- must be taken into consideration.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the international community, certain rights – notably the right to development – are being systematically neglected. The detrimental impact of unilateral and multilateral sanctions on nations – especially developing countries – has caused great concern about food security, adequate housing, civil aviation and other basic human rights.

Finally, realization of the right to development calls for responsibility and accountability by all. This, in turn, will help create a fair, enabling and conducive global economic environment for all. In this regard, the obligation of the international community to facilitate the right to development and the MDG goals through different means – including international cooperation – is of paramount importance.

I thank you.