

Delegation from Islamic Republic of Iran
Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council

The topics for the upcoming session of the *Economic and Social Council* (ECOSOC) are I. Education in Post-Conflict Situations, II. Implementing SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All and III. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes the importance of every topic for the international community and points out that topic II. should be discussed first due to the importance of energy in social and economic development.

I. Education in Post-Conflict Situations

According to Article 9 (b) of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (CDHRI), “every human being has a right to receive both religious and worldly education from the various institutions of teaching [...]”. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that this must be the guiding framework for this council to provide education to children in post-conflict situations. Our leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has told officials and researchers at the Institute for Cognitive Science Studies in Tehran, that nations lagging behind in science are doomed to underdevelopment, humiliation and exploitation by foreign powers, therefore we consider SDG 4: „Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all“ an important tool to strengthen every nation and its people. Our nation wants to stress the importance of GA resolution 70/137 where point 8 expresses the importance of equal access of all children to essential services such as education. We welcome new funding methods such as Education Cannot Wait (ECW), which increase the capabilities of the international community to provide better education. Furthermore, Iran wants to stress the importance of the ECOSOC Youth Forum due to it being an important place for young people to voice their opinions. Finally, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes that the 24th of January 2019 was dedicated as “The International Day of Education”, proclaimed by GA resolution 73/25, this important reminder of education has to be repeated regularly. As stated above, education is a fundamental human right. Therefore resolution RES/38/9 of the Human Rights Council (HRC) is important due to fact that operative clause 4 points out to the importance to monitor providers of education in order to find and fight bad practices. Iran proposes to strengthen the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* (UNESCO), ECW and the *United Nations Children Fund* (UNICEF) in its mandate by introducing a new Annual Ministerial Review, submitted by the president of ECOSOC, which is tasked with reviewing UN missions in post conflict countries. These reviews have to condemn and point out to imperialist and colonialist influences in the programs and should provide information on how to eliminate these threats to national sovereignty. Furthermore, international funding of post-conflict education should be in accordance with religious beliefs and practices. Our nation therefore proposes that ECOSOC starts a dialog with religious leaders in order to create an international framework for this specific topic. This can be achieved by creating an annual conference where religious and community leaders are invited to discuss and give recommendations. The conference has to be held by ECOSOC and should be supported by UNESCO and UNICEF.

II. Implementing SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All

The goal of SDG 7 is to “ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services” and plays a significant part in fighting climate change. On the 19th of December 2018, the Katowice Climate Change Conference noted that there is an urgent need to enhance technology support by developed countries to help developing countries to act in accordance with the Paris agreement. Especially rural areas around the world need further improvement in the development of access to energy. The most vulnerable countries are those threatened by war and exploited by western colonialism, many of them located in Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to support them in their efforts of achieving the SDG7 goals and therefore welcomes the upcoming discussion about the topic. Our nation is working hard to increase its capacity of modern energy production: Since mid-2009, the Islamic Republic has added 3 billion kilowatt hours of electricity by renewable sources. Energy supply in Iran is at 100% in urban areas and 95% in rural areas while the supply in the rural areas is constantly improving. Iran has the second largest natural gas reserves in the world, which can be shared with the world if the international community allows our nation to unleash its potential. Iran also has a strong tradition in developing a peaceful nuclear program in order to provide its population with clean and sustainable nuclear energy. Unfortunately, certain member states left the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action* (JCPOA), threatening our sovereignty to pursue a better energy supply for the Iranian people.

Nevertheless, the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to achieve its goals while, as President Rouhani stated, “our nuclear industry is currently moving forward more strongly and accurately than before”. The Islamic Republic of Iran wants to emphasize/reiterate General Assembly resolution 73/236, which encourages states and relevant shareholders to include developing countries in the energy sector development and, more generally, to improve cooperation between members states in order to support regional cross-border power connections. Furthermore, General Assembly resolution 73/9 needs to be emphasized due to its strengthening of the *International Atomic Energy Agency* (IAEA). Iran wants to stress its commitment to international rules and agencies developed for the utilization of nuclear energy. The Islamic Republic of Iran further wants to call attention to the Report of the Trade and Development Board A/73/15, which points out to the efforts of the Technology Bank which is working to build up technological progress in the least developed countries. The upcoming *Financing for Development* (FfD) Forum 2019, which is the fourth forum on Financing on Development organized by ECOSOC offers great opportunities for further development in providing more sustainable energy. Therefore, we are emphasizing the necessity to provide well based guidelines in order to ensure a successful FfD Forum 2019. These guidelines have to call for discussions and solutions for measures to provide less developed countries with natural gas, financing technology exchange and transfer, which can be supported by the Technology Bank and further cooperation between private investors and state actors. The upcoming meeting of ECOSOC has to strengthen the ECOSOC integration segment by calling for the invitation of religious leaders from around the world due to their knowledge about the hopes and needs of their religious communities. In addition, it has to discuss measures to reduce sanctions which threaten the energy supply of member states. Iran is worried about the aggression of some world powers against peaceful nations trying to improve their energy supply. Therefore, in addition to the ECOSOC Integration segment discussing measures to reduce these sanctions, Iran asks this meeting of ECOSOC to condemn such sanctions due to their bad nature for sustainable development. The Islamic Republic believes that in the future, reliable, sustainable and modern energy can be achieved if the international community promotes and supports member states to create their own nuclear capabilities. Iran supports the people of Syria, North Korea and other states to strengthen their independence by developing new technologies.

III. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous people live in about 70 countries worldwide. Some see their rights being violated on a daily basis by colonialist and racist powers. The Islamic Republic of Iran is strongly committed to fight such atrocities and therefore urges the upcoming meeting of ECOSOC to take action. Political representation, socioeconomic rights such as education and cultural rights like the right to practice cultural traditions without judgment or persecution need to be strengthened and defended against the colonialist and racist powers mentioned above. For example, the Bedouin people of Palestine are victims of Zionist violations of their rights. Israel demolishes Bedouin settlements in order to make space for Jewish settlements. Bedouin women, according to the Special Rapporteur of violence against women in 2017, feel unprotected and disempowered due to the negative effects on their way of life caused by the demolishing. The expansion of Israeli-only settlements, which is considered illegal under international humanitarian law and which destroys the creation of an independent Palestinian state shows that the rights of Indigenous people are not taken seriously by some member states of the United Nations. However, important steps in the protection of indigenous peoples have been taken back in 1965, when the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination started to help nations commit to a world without racism. The General Assembly approved resolution 68/149 in 2014, which requests the United Nations to further strengthen its efforts to protect the rights of indigenous people. We further want to remind of General Assembly resolution 73/L.20 which mentions the illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian territories, Syrian Golan heights and East Jerusalem. Our nation is convinced that the implementation of UNDRIP can be improved by calling out abuses against UNDRIP by the international community. It is necessary that ECOSOC promotes the important work done by other parts of the United Nations such as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee. ECOSOC has to recommend strong actions to UN bodies which can impose these. Therefore Iran will work for a recommendation to the Security Council to establish sanctions against governments that disregard the political, economic and cultural rights of the Bedouin people in occupied Palestine. Our nation further seeks to improve the work of the *Commission for Social Development* (CsocD) by calling for a special conference on the protection of Indigenous Peoples where representatives of Indigenous organizations such as the *Assembly of First Nations* (AfN) can express their opinions and contribute to solutions. Iran looks forward to implement successful solutions in the upcoming session of ECOSOC.