Delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are: (I) The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament, (II) Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System, and (III) Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been an influential part of efforts and would like to share our ideas about working with other Member States and creating sustainable solutions to the issues at hand.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

New opportunities for existing social and economic problems, expanding access to energy, information and knowledge are being created by the growing development and common use of information and communications, aerospace, and nuclear technology. But since this topic was first added to the agenda of the First Committee in 1988, by pointing out five categories: nuclear technology, space technology, materials technology, information technology, and biotechnology, an increasing amount of resources and knowledge are being devoted to developing new types of weapon systems, in particular, weapons of mass destruction, which lead to an exacerbation of old threats, as well as to the emergence of new ones, like cybersecurity and information technology threats.

With the 2030 Agenda and its *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs), the world community revisits the historical relationship between disarmament and development and is in this regard led by SDG 16. The GA has adopted Resolution 45/60 (1990) to "promote information sharing regarding science and technology" and Resolution 57/239 (2003), 58/199 (2004) for the "creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures". Furthermore, Resolution 71/48 (2016) "concerning illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects" and Resolution 72/28 (2017) "focusing on interaction and interconnection of different fields of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament" are an important step towards a respectful contact between technologies and the goal of international security and disarmament. With the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action* (JCPOA), the Islamic Republic of Iran together with the P5 plus 1, have set a new global nuclear non-proliferation standard. Unfortunately, the unilateral and illegal decision of the current administration of the United States of America (USA), to withdraw from the JCPOA, does not only harm international security and disarmament but also battles our approach of multilateralism and compliance with international law. Besides the threats of nuclear technology, the General Assembly Resolution 73/509 (2018) calls upon all Member States to engage with experts from industry, the research community and civil society to address the challenges of the emergence of new technologies.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is confident that the international community, including the USA, has to maintain the deal of JCPOA to bring future peace for all and especially the region of Middle East, and to prevent the risk of calling other non-nuclear proliferation treaties into question. We stand for peaceful use of new technologies, just like artificial intelligence and drone technology, to improve national security levels. Therefore, we support a system that in its whole stands up for peace and security but also a system that provides its Member States the chance of self-defense, which includes access to certain types of technologies. We encourage the establishment of workshops for interstate actors on illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in cooperation with the *UN Office for Disarmament Affairs* (UNODA) to spread practices on disarmament techniques and furthermore, propose a meeting of science and technology with the aim of increasing the socio-economic well-being of peoples around the world. We are open to enhance our contribution to addressing the multifaceted problems of concern to all Member States and encourage the update of a definition of the emerged technologies.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the GA, said on 1 December 2017 that the United Nations is "not reaching its potential". The UN is a network between all Member States, relying on its institutions, and it is important that information and decision-making processes are transparent and accountable to all of its Member States. During the 72nd session of the General Assembly, more than 120 Member States have stated their support to reform the UN system to tackle the issues regarding lack of transparency, efficiency, and accountability. The support seems strong but it is questionable if it is, for some Member States, just an expression of intent or a firm commitment to real change. The United Nations is confronted by a lack of trust and it is called for change by leaders, governments, organizations, and corporations around the world.

Since the *2005 World Summit* at the General Assembly, many reforms of the transparency and accountability, defined in the GA Resolution 64/259 (2010), have been implemented within the UN System. Resolution 69/321 (2015) and 70/305 (2016) on the "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly and its annexes" can be seen as a big step to strengthen parts of the accountability and transparency within the UN system, followed by Resolution 70/1003 (2016) for the creation of the "Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly". With this not only the role of the General Assembly is

strengthened, but also the work methods are improved. But the accountability of the entire UN system is especially compromised by several Member States single efforts, which threaten all countries and international organizations with punishment if they comply with Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

The United Nations, and with it the international community have to accept legal responsibility and not just embrace, but also follow the rules. The egoistic behavior of several Member States does not only harm the hard negotiated agreements and relationships we have all built together but also the efficiency, accountability and transparency of the United Nations. We believe that the biggest problem for the accountability and transparency within the UN is not per se the structure of the UN itself but the acting of several Member States, which do not support the goals of the United Nations. We believe that if some Member States do not follow the rules and work openly against the accountability and transparency commitment of the United Nations, its integrity and effectiveness, to reach our goal of international peace and security is far from achievable. The system of the United Nations does not work if certain actors are allowed to act above international law and agreements. Therefore, not just some, but all Member States have to be committed to following the rules and international law. The question of international security is not a tool for American and Western foreign politics, but it should be one of the compliances by the international community. The Islamic Republic of Iran follows a strong commitment to our founding principles, ideals, and purposes, particularly in establishing a peaceful and prosperous world and suitable world order. Transparency and accountability can only be achieved through supportive and appreciative mechanisms.

III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women

Violence against women, including physical and mental, but especially sexual violence, is one of the most disgraceful problems of our time. In far too many cases women find themselves overly sexualized in particular within Western media representations, thus creating a climate that leads to inappropriate behavior by man, sexual harassment and even rape. While the international community has recognized this problem for many years, women are yet to be universally treated with respect. According to the World Health Organization, one in three women has been reporting violence against her. It is respect and decency that is still missing in many actions taken by the UN and certain Member States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the achievements made by the United Nations for the advancements of women around the world, such as with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979, the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, and eight UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs). However, we cannot and will not fully support actions or masseurs, which constitutes a contravention of the Islamic Shariah and the customs and practices of our Islamic society. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran is assigned through Islamic Law and supported by the Iranian people. Our nation stands in for the rights of women in all societies and supports a pluralistic and tolerant Islam, based on human rights and democratic values. We believe that women are equal with men in their human dignity and that they deserve an equitable system of rights in which their priorities and requirements in their specific roles are accounted for. We rely on our people and are respecting their rights and freedoms, which is not only a moral obligation but rather a national security requirement. Furthermore, does the Islamic Republic of Iran, supported by our supreme leader, provide unique transgender rights to our citizens, which can be seen as a role model towards a more equal world for all of us.

We believe that whoever sees international law as a tool to use whenever it suits best, does also violate human rights and women rights. We call for humanitarian behavior around the world and therefore the elimination of all forms of violence against all human beings and in particular women. Women should be protected by respectful and dignified interactions and not be seen as an object of sexual assault. We believe that programs and international treaties should be guided by ethical and moral values and respect the responsibilities, rights, and duties of everyone. The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to the implementation of international agreements with full respect for Islam and the ethical values of our society and we believe that women rights are Human Rights.