



High Council for Human Rights of
the Islamic Republic of Iran

**The National Report of the
Fourth Round of the Islamic
Republic of Iran in the
Framework of the UPR
(Periodic Review Mechanism)**

**The High Council for Human Rights
of The Islamic Republic of Iran**

(October 2024)

In the Name of GOD

The High Council for Human Rights of The Islamic Republic of Iran
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I. Methodology and Consulting Process

1. The report of the fourth edition of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been drafted informed by relevant documents¹ and guiding principles.² Having adopted the recommendations of the third round, the "High Council for Human Rights" (HCHR) as the national authority of the U.P.R mechanism, instituted in the first step the National Committee to follow up the implementation of the recognized recommendations bringing in the representatives of relevant departments and, in parallel, the NGOs' Advisory Committee. The recommendations were categorized thematically and were communicated to the executive bodies and related NGOs for implementation and reporting. It was also decided to compile and submit an interim report. Several meetings were held to coordinate and evaluate their performance. After receiving the relevant reports, the drafting committee was formed with the representatives of the relevant institutions on board. After perusing the performance reports of the organizations and considering the opinions of the civil society representatives, the High Council for Human Rights prepared and drafted the present report.

¹ A/HRC/RES/5/1, A/HRC/RES/16/21, A/HRC/DEC/17/119

² 4th Cycle Universal Periodic Review National Report- Guidance Note

II. Implementation of the Recommendations Accepted in the Previous Period

A. Normative and Institutional Framework for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights³

2. The Constitution has guaranteed the fundamental rights and freedoms of people in several of its Articles. Given that situation, Iran is trying to create legal frameworks and necessary structures to resolve the gaps and challenges. In this regard, some of the most important measures are mentioned:

- Adoption of the Seventh Development Plan Law (April 2024);
 - Ratification of the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents (May 2020);
 - Approval of the law on the transparency of the Triple Powers, Executive Bodies and other Institutions (May 2024);
 - Approval and notification of the Executive Regulations of the Prisons Security and Corrective Measures Organization (May 2021);
 - Formulation and notification of the document on the transformation and excellence of the Judiciary (revision and approval, April 2024);
 - Formulation and notification of Judicial Security Document (October 2020);
 - General approval of the bill to prevent women's harms and improve their safety against abuse (December 2022);
 - Institution of the post of advisor for women and family affairs in the executive bodies.
3. In connection with examining the possibility of acceding to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment, some measures have been adopted as follows:
- Conducting a study visit to Geneva-Switzerland at the invitation of the Secretariat of the Convention Against Torture Initiative to get to know the obligations of the Convention, the working procedures of the Committee against Torture, and the experiences and challenges of some member states;

³ Recommendations: 26.1, 26.26, 26.64, 26.66, 26.5, 26.23

- Holding a series of scientific meetings in different research institutes of Iran, including the Judiciary Research Institute, in cooperation with the HCHR.
 - Online participation in the regional seminar of the UNCAT (Indonesia, April 2022);
 - Planning to hold a bilateral meeting with one of the member states of the convention to benefit from its experiences.
4. In connection with the review of the accession to the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant workers and Members of their Family, considering that Iran is under the most severe system of illegal unilateral sanctions, and the fact this convention entails legal, protective and financial obligations, the experts concluded that there is no prospect of joining this international treaty, prompting the discontinuation of studies.⁴
 5. Concerning the establishment of the NHRI, the bill of the National Institution of Human Rights and Citizenship was presented to the parliament on July 28, 2021 by the then government. This bill has been examined by the parliament and the government in the years 2022 to 2024 and is going through the legal process. The bill's formulation adheres to the principles outlined in the Paris Declaration.

B. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

1. Human Rights Education⁵

6. Since the education of human rights strengthens the foundations of respect and guarantee of fundamental rights and fundamental freedoms, Iran has firmly continued the education of human rights in all its pillars. About the creation of specialized training courses in the country's universities, the specialized field of human rights is taught as a master's degree in Iranian universities, and students continuously graduate in this field every year.⁶

⁴ Iran is a member of the fundamental treaties of the International Labor Organization. It has also ratified the 1951 Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees. These treaties, along with the main international human rights treaties, provide basic protections for the rights of migrant workers and their families.

⁵ Recommendations: 26.69, 26.70, 26.71, 26.72, 26.73, 26.74, 26.75, 26.76, 26.77, 26.78, 26.79

⁶ For example, only in public universities in 2020 to 2024, more than 300 students have studied in the master's course in human rights. There are 50 majors in graduate studies related to human rights and public law. At PhD

7. The judicial system is constantly trying to enhance the awareness of judges, bailiffs and administrative staff. From 2021 to the end of spring 2024, it has held training courses on "citizenship and human rights" as follows in all the provinces of the country:
 - Conducting 488 courses for 22,287 bailiffs, amounting to 156,302 person-hours;
 - Holding 64 courses for 4181 judges at the rate of 29402 person-hours;
 - Holding 230 courses for 14,805 administrative staff at the rate of 88,830 person-hours;
 - Conducting training courses for 11,178 prison staff and officers with the titles of "Nelson Mandela rules", "New regulations in the field of observing human rights based on the executive regulations of the Prisons Organization" for 12,859 people and "Human rights in prison" for 523 person;
8. The Ministry of Justice has organized human rights training courses for NGOs, civil society activists, students and graduates.⁷ Additionally, the National Authority of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in collaboration with provincial authorities, has conducted specialized conferences on children's rights for judicial and executive officials across provinces.
9. Broadcasting more than 6323 hours of messages about citizenship rights in the national media, the IRIB has acted to improve public knowledge about human rights and citizenship rights.
10. The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has undertaken initiatives to enhance awareness of human rights by producing nine films centered on human rights themes, publishing 186 books related to human rights during the years 2022 and 2023, and facilitating the organization of cultural festivals.
11. The Ministry of Education has included human rights issues in the texts and curricula of students in line with human rights education.
12. The HCHR has organized two specialized human rights workshops for the liaison officers of the Supreme Council of Human Rights in the courts of provinces across the

level, the subject of human rights in the field of public international law is presented as one of the subjects of the courses. There are 12 academic quarterly journals in fields related to human rights and citizenship rights.

⁷ Including titles such as "citizenship rights of the elderly", "human rights and terrorism", "the role of traditional rituals in promoting the culture of peace and negation of violence with an emphasis on Nowruz", "modern tourism and the heritage of humanity", "supporting children's rights" Migrants and refugees."

country. Additionally, by dispatching expert delegations to the sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, this council has communicated relevant updates regarding international human rights developments to pertinent stakeholders.

13. Through its human rights commission, the Bar Association of the Capital continuously organizes specialized training courses for lawyers.

2. Cooperation with Human Rights Mechanisms⁸

14. Iran has acceded to 5 main human rights treaties and an optional protocol, which are considered among the sources of internal law upon approval in the Iranian legislative system and are thus binding. In addition, in the process of formulation and passing of domestic laws and regulations, international human rights obligations are considered by the legal system.⁹ Also, in order to fulfill international obligations, the government has taken the following measures:

- Presenting the fourth periodic report of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and defending it in October 2023;
- Presenting the 20th to 27th periodic report of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and defending it in August 2024;
- Submitting the fifth and sixth periodic reports of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in November 2023;
- Preparation of the second to fourth periodic reports of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Preparation of the third report of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

⁸ Recommendations: 26.43, 26.46, 26.47, 26.49, 26.50, 26.51, 26.52, 26.53, 26.55, 26.56, 26.39, 26.34, 26.35, 26.37, 26.40, 26.41, 26.42, 26.54

⁹ For example, in the drafting of the Protection of Children and Adolescents Act (2020) according to the requirements of the UNCRC, in the preparation of the directive "Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly in the Fair Trial Process" (July 2023) according to the obligations of the UNCRPD, and in revising and compiling the executive regulations of the prisons organization and security and educational measures of the country, the provisions of the approved international human rights treaties and Nelson Mandela's rules have been taken into account.

- Preparation of the core document of Iran to be posted on the website of our country in the United Nations.
15. In connection with the continuation and promotion of interaction with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the following measures have been adopted:
- Drawing up arrangements for the visit of the delegation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Tehran from February 3 to 5, 2024;¹⁰
 - The development of an interaction framework with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with the cooperation of both parties was finalized in September 2024 and is being implemented in the first phase.
16. In collaboration with Special Procedures, the following actions have been undertaken:
- The visit of Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights to Iran from May 7 to 18, 2022 and presenting a report on the negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on the rights of the people of Iran to the 51st session of the Human Rights Council;
 - Responding to 233 Special Procedures correspondence from 2020 to March 2024;¹¹
 - The meeting of Iran's specialized delegations with the special rapporteurs on the sidelines of the Human Rights Council meetings;¹²
 - Face-to-face and virtual meetings of the ambassador and permanent representative of Iran with special thematic rapporteurs;
 - Engagement with the country's special rapporteur: meeting of the Iranian delegations as well as the ambassador and permanent representative of Iran in Geneva and New York with the special rapporteur of Iran:

¹⁰ During this visit, several interactive meetings were held with national authorities and non-governmental organizations, as well as two specialized meetings related to women's rights and death penalty.

¹¹ As acknowledged by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in his annual report to the Human Rights Council, the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks among the highest ranks of responding to correspondence among UN member states. Iran has responded to more than 85 percent of the correspondence since March 1, 2023 (10 March 1401) (A/HRC/54/3).

¹² For example, during the reporting period, meetings were held with the special rapporteur on housing, the special rapporteur on violence against women and girls, consequences and causes, the special rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, etc.

- Iran's comments on the 6 reports of the special rapporteur in 2020-2022 have been communicated to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. Iran's comments regarding his report in 2023 and 2024 have been sent to other states for enlightenment purposes.¹³


17. Other engagements practiced are as follows:

- Providing answers to the UN Secretary General's draft reports on the human rights situation in Iran (9 items);
- Drawing the attention of officials of international human rights institutions and states to the alarming human rights situations around the world;¹⁴
- Participation in the meetings of the Human Rights Council by sending delegations;
- Active participation in reviewing the other state's UPR;
- Consultations and bilateral talks with the ambassadors of other states in Tehran regarding a range of human rights issues;¹⁵
- Holding 3 dialogue meetings between the Head of the Judiciary and the Chairman of the High Council for Human Rights with ambassadors, heads of resident foreign missions and heads of United Nations agencies;
- Providing bulletins and reports on the Iran's progress and achievements for the human rights institutions of the United Nations as well as the mission of the member states of the United Nations in Geneva.

¹³ During correspondence with the head of the Human Rights Council and the office of the Human Rights Commissioner, the Islamic Republic of Iran's protest against the unprofessional behavior of Iran's special rapporteur due to the violation of neutrality and the presentation of political and biased reports with insulting literature was reflected. Due to the continued unprofessional behavior of Iran's special rapporteur, Javid Rahman, the Islamic Republic of Iran decided to change its way of interaction and inform about the human rights situation in Iran and clarify the allegations contained in the drafts of the special rapporteur's report through sending comments to the representatives of the member states.

¹⁴ Among other things, in connection with the gross and systematic violation of human rights by the Zionist regime with the non-stop killing of innocent people of the occupied Palestine, the need to deal with terrorism, etc. through correspondence and meetings.

¹⁵ Including unilateral sanctions, children's rights, prisoners' rights, transfer of prisoners and transfer of human rights experiences and laying the groundwork for the development of legal-judicial cooperation with the governments of Iraq, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Austria, France, Netherland, Russia, Indonesia, China, South Africa, Norway, Spain, England, Germany, New Zealand and Australia.

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18. Continuation of dialogue and bilateral human rights and judicial cooperation to exchange experience in the last four years with several states including New Zealand (June 2021), Indonesia (December 2021 and July 2023), South Africa (October 2022), Switzerland (February 2023 and May 2024), Russia (May 2023 and June 2024) and Japan (November 2023).
 19. Regarding children's rights, Iran cooperates with specialized agencies of the United Nations. Notably, it has cooperated UNICEF in the fields of training judges, improving judicial procedures, amending laws, training prison staff, fighting crimes, and supporting migrant children.¹⁶ Also, a memorandum of understanding has been concluded with Switzerland in the field of judicial dialogues on the subject of "juvenile justice".

3. Improving Human Development Indicators¹⁷

20. According to the latest human development report of the UNDP, in 2022, Iran was classified in the group of "countries with high human development" with a score of 0.780.¹⁸ It is posited that, had Iran not been subjected to unjust and unlawful sanctions, it would undoubtedly have been categorized within the "countries with very high human development," given the potential resources and capabilities available within the nation.

¹⁶ Within the framework of the agreement with the United Nations Children's Fund (two-year joint cooperation program), the following actions have been carried out: preparation of guidelines for children in contact with the law, preparation of training clips for juvenile proceedings, study of post-exit care, study about the social workers of children and juvenile courts and holding several training workshops for judges.

¹⁷ Recommendations: 26.89, 26.90, 26.91

¹⁸ Human Development Report 2023/2024, available at:< <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/human-development-index#/indicies/HDI>>

C. Implementation of the Recommendations of the Third Round Regarding Cross-cutting Issues

1. Reducing the Risk of Natural Disasters¹⁹

21. The country's crisis management organization, in the event of natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, etc., and the resulting damage, performs various measures in two stages: search, rescue and relief, and recovery & reconstruction of the affected areas.²⁰ The following measures have been implemented to effectively manage natural hazards within the country:

- Allocation of approximately 6 percent of the country's public resources budget to cover crisis management costs;
- Ratification of the Act Establishing the General Natural Disaster Insurance Fund (November 2020);
- Development of the national plan to reduce the risk of accidents and disasters (December 2021);
- Establishing a national forum for reducing the risk of disasters (October 2022);
- Allocating the necessary credits to compensate for the losses brought about by major disasters;²¹
- Reconstruction efforts in areas impacted by floods and earthquakes;²²
- Establishment and organization of 5,400 Red Crescent houses throughout the country, particularly in remote villages;

¹⁹ Recommendations: 26.92, 26.93, 26.94

²⁰ The country's Crisis Management Organization is responsible for integrated management in policy making, planning, creating coordination and coherence in the fields of implementation and research, centralized information and monitoring the various stages of crisis management and organizing and rebuilding the affected areas. The Red Crescent Society and the armed forces have important duties according to the law.

²¹ Including the massive flood in August 2022 (monsoon) and the earthquakes in West Azerbaijan province (Khoi) and Hormozgan province and floods in some other provinces.

²² In this regard, for example during 2021, 19,717 residential units were renovated and 26,661 residential units were repaired, and more than 7,200 billion Rials of facilities and about 6,800 billion Rials of free credit were disbursed.

- 40 percent increase in voluntary medical services, especially in depressed areas;²³
 - Providing relief and assistance to waves of Afghan refugees and asylum seekers in Iran from 2021;
 - Helping in Pakistan flood, earthquake in Afghanistan, Türkiye and Syria;
22. Initiatives aimed at environmental protection, pollution management, and climate change adaptation in collaboration with civil institutions. The most important items are as follows:
- Formulation of the national action plan for the protection of the country's marine environment;²⁴
 - Holding a regional meeting of environmental ministers of neighboring countries under the title "Environmental cooperation for a better future" (September 9 and 10, 2023);²⁵
 - Conducting over 150 special nation-wide meetings with NGOs on an annual basis;
 - Creating and managing two thousand environmental houses to enhance social responsibilities and public engagement in environmental issues;
 - Implementation of 377 cooperative education plans by non-governmental organizations;
 - Providing the possibility for the activity of more than a thousand NGOs in the field of environment and natural resources all over the country.

2. Unilateral Coercive Measures²⁶

23. The implementation of unilateral coercive measures by the US and some European countries over the past forty years against Iran, particularly the extraterritorial effects and over-compliance by third-party governments and European companies, have

²³ In the last two years, 3,400,000 people benefited from the health and treatment services of this population, and basic and specialized rehabilitation services were also provided to 915,233 people in the whole country.

²⁴ In this regard, four national working groups have been formed with the titles of biodiversity, marine pollution, public participation, capacity building and climate change.

²⁵ The purpose of this conference was to deal with the problem of dust in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

²⁶ Recommendations: 26.57, 26.58, 26.48

massively violated the fundamental rights of the Iranian people in a discriminatory manner and left "irreparable" human, financial and emotional damage that have trans-generational and transnational effects and dimensions. These actions are clearly in conflict with the UN Charter, the standards of international law, international humanitarian law and international human rights. Applying such measures is also a violation of international covenants of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, especially the right to self-determination. Applying UCMs is one of the most important main obstacles to realizing the right to development of the Iranian people.

24. Also, the ongoing "restrictive measures" of the European Union since 2012 against the authorities in Iran, including the military and civil officials, companies and individuals constitute a clear breach of the UN Charter and international humanitarian rights.

25. In order to lessen the impacts of the extensive unilateral sanctions of the United States, Iran has taken into account the very destructive effects of UCMs in all the processes related to the formulation and regulation of laws, regulations, policies and executive measures, and has executed plans to empower and support vulnerable classes, especially in the emergency situation of Covid-19. The major actions taken are:

- Inviting the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures to visit Iran in May 2022 to draw the attention of the governments imposing sanctions, the Government adhering to them and the international community to the negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on the human rights of the Iranian people and help to remove the unilateral sanctions and reducing their adverse effects;²⁷
- Circulating documents about the violation of the human rights of the Iranian people to related international institutions;²⁸

²⁷ The special rapporteur on UCMs in her report on the visit to Iran to the 51st session of the Human Rights Council showed that unilateral sanctions, secondary sanctions and over-compliance have a negative impact on a wide range of human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right Iranian people have the right to life, health and development, and it has led to serious violations of human rights and humanitarian challenges, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. See: A/HRC/51/33/Add.1, 17 August 2022 and A/HRC/51/33/Add.4, 13 September 2022.

²⁸ Especially in the field of health for the special rapporteur on UCMs and other relevant subject rapporteurs, human rights treaty bodies and the OHCHR through written reports, bilateral meetings and oral statements in relevant meetings to draw their attention to perform necessary actions within the framework of their duties.

- Holding a meeting with a group of ambassadors and heads of resident foreign missions and representatives of UN offices about "the impacts of sanctions on certain patients, especially thalassemia and EB patients" (March 14, 2021);
- Ratification of the Strategic Action Law by the Parliament to lift sanctions in December 2020;²⁹
- The ongoing implementation of the general policies of the resistance economy" (served in 2013) with the aim of providing dynamic growth and improving economic indicators;
- Establishing a market regulation working group with the aim of regulating the market, balancing supply and demand, and containing the prices to provide better access to basic and essential commodities for vulnerable classes;
- Allocation of foreign currency at preferential rate for basic goods and livestock inputs, medicine and medical equipment to be made available at the price of basic goods;
- The mobilization of all domestic resources to supply the knowledge, services, and equipment required by the health sector when external resources are insufficient or unavailable.³⁰

3. Mines Left from the Imposed War³¹

26. With the measures taken, over 95 percent of the country's mine-contaminated lands have been cleared, and the amount of landmine contamination has gone down from 1,555,000 hectares in 2003 to about 100,000 hectares by the end of 2023 (including the contaminated areas that are inaccessible and flooded).³² In this regard, 28,874 mine

²⁹ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs pursues the policy of lifting sanctions by through negotiations to revive the JCPOA after the unilateral withdrawal of the US and the illegal application of the most extensive system of unilateral sanctions against the Iranian nation in the framework of the "Maximum Pressure Campaign".

³⁰ Such as the development and production of medicine, national brand vaccines, oxygen generators, diagnostic kits, mask and some essential items in the emergency situation caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

³¹ Recommendations: 26.59

³² According to official statistics, during the eight years of the imposed war, Saddam's regime has planted about 20 million types of mines and several million types of unexploded ordnances in more than 4 million two hundred thousand hectares of Iran's land, which has made the Islamic Republic of Iran the second most contaminated country in the world in terms of landmines.

clearing operations were performed in the five provinces of Lorestan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Kurdistan, and West Azerbaijan.³³

D. Implementation of the Recommendations of the Third Round Regarding Civil and Political Rights

1. Freedom of Opinion, Faith and Minority Rights³⁴

27. Emphasizing that Iran is a historical country and its foundation was not based on ethnic and religious structural conflict and was not formed based on the duality of majority and minority, any attempt to show ethnicity as a minority is in no way compatible with the historical, geographical and cultural realities of Iran.³⁵
28. "Removing discrimination and creating fair opportunities for all", "Equality of the public before the law" and "Equal enjoyment of rights by the Iranian people, regardless of ethnicity, color, race, language and etc.", "Requiring good behavior and respecting human rights with "Non-Muslims" is one of the principles of Iran's Constitution.³⁶
29. Religious minorities are permitted to conduct their religious ceremonies freely. Approximately 300 churches across the nation operate without hindrance, and 40 of these have been restored with financial assistance from the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization.³⁷ 57 organizations and associations related to religious minorities follow up religious, cultural, social and welfare issues of minorities and receive financial support from the government every year.
30. Iranian people are involved in determination of their political and social destiny within the framework of the citizenship system with equal opportunity for all, and the

³³ The recent four-year reduction rate of public accidents from 2020 to 2023 was about 93 percent. According to the government regulations, victims and survivors are supported.

³⁴ Recommendations: 26.310, 26.318, 26.308, 26.314, 26.81, 26.154, 26.296, 26.297, 26.298, 26.302, 26.309

³⁵ Iran's national identity is built of different Iranian ethnic groups and based on their solidarity and collective historical and cultural memory. Azeri, Kurd, Lor, Arab, Baloch and Turkmen ethnic groups live side by side with different traditions and dialects as components of Iranian identity.

³⁶ Articles 3 (9) and (14), 19 and 14 of the Constitution

³⁷ According to the regulations governing religious places, synagogues, churches and fire temples of followers of religions in Iran, as well as Muslim religious places, are exempted from tax and special discounts for the running costs of buildings such as water, electricity gas and telephone are granted to them.

administrative and electoral structures are based on the divisions of the country based on constituencies. Be that as it may, while Iranians have one representative in the parliament for every 300,000 people, religious minorities have one representative in the parliament for every 30,000 people reflecting a form of positive discrimination in their favor.³⁸

31. Sunni followers in Iran, like other religions and ethnic groups, have the right to participate in political, social and administrative affairs, and a significant number of them are employed by executive bodies. In the recent elections of the Assembly of Experts, 5 members and in the 12th elections of the Parliament, 22 members of the Sunnis won the most votes in their constituencies and entered the parliament. Recently, one of the Sunni representatives in the parliament has been appointed as the vice president in the affairs of deprived areas and rural development.³⁹ In addition to the recent appointment of a Sunni fellow countryman as the governor of Kurdistan, there are 1,875 people working in administrative positions in the country's governorates, including 40 governors, 146 mayors, and 116 county mayors.⁴⁰
32. The law of adding two articles to the fifth book of the Islamic Penal Code was approved in January 2021 under Article 499 (bis) with the aim of criminalizing any spread of hatred, insult and violence against Iranian peoples, divine faiths or Islamic religions.⁴¹

³⁸ According to Article 64 of the Constitution, religious minorities have a total of 5 representatives in the Parliament.

³⁹ The majority of Iran's population follows Islam and Twelve Imam Shia religion. Among the Muslim Iranians, there is a group of followers of Sunni religions. Unofficial estimates show that the population of followers of Sunni religions in Iran includes about 8 to 10 percent of the country's total population. Sunni compatriots are considered part of the Muslim majority and are not considered a religious minority according to the law.

⁴⁰ Also, judicial courts benefit from the services of 81 Sunni judges with the positions of prosecutors, investigators, and judges. In addition, 1,433 Sunnis are working as employees in courts across the country, and 1,686 are working in dispute resolution councils across the country.

⁴¹ According to note 2 of this article, whenever this crime is committed in an organized manner or by government or public officials or employees during the performance of duty or on the occasion thereof, or through speeches in public meetings or by using mass communication tools, published in real or virtual space, the prescribed punishment is aggravated by one degree.

33. "Specialized Dispute Resolution Councils" have been established specifically for religious minorities to address issues and claims related to personal status.⁴² A special branch for dealing with the cases of fellow Zoroastrians has been established at the Zoroastrian Association of Tehran in 2021.⁴³
34. According to the amendment of Article 24 of the NGOs Regulations by the Council of Ministers in June 2024, the Ministry of Culture is required to support the cultural, artistic, media and religious activities of all citizens throughout the country.⁴⁴
35. To facilitate communication among their community members, religious minorities use special media⁴⁵ and have the opportunity to study in special schools in addition to the country's regular schools.⁴⁶

⁴² The formation of these councils does not prevent the mentioned religious minorities from referring to other councils of the same jurisdiction.

⁴³ There are currently 9 specialized branches for religious minorities (Christians (both Armenian and Assyrian), Zoroastrians, Jews) in the provinces of West Azerbaijan, Isfahan, Tehran, Fars, Kerman, Mazandaran and Yazd to deal with the cases of fellow minorities in relation to their faith claims.

⁴⁴ During the reporting period, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has taken the following actions in order to support the rights of ethnic groups and religious minorities: Issuing permission to hold 376 gatherings in the field of minorities, including religious ceremonies and celebrations and festivals, ceremonies related to personal status and cultural and sports activities; Issuing 69 permits related to residence, work, entry and exit of foreign religious representatives; conducting 70 meetings or visits in the field of monotheistic religions on various religious and national occasions; issuing licenses to publish 157 book titles by publishers of religious minorities; issuance of 578 letters of introduction of natural and legal persons related to the field of religions, to centers and official institutions of minorities for visiting, documenting, using resources and conducting research; holding 107 national and provincial cultural, social and religious conferences and festivals; granting direct subsidies in the amount of IRR 501,925,000,000 to the media related to ethnic groups; ; granting 412,418 kilograms of paper at subsidized rates to the media of the provinces with the majority population of ethnic groups and religious minorities and distributing government advertisements worth of IRR 2,848,156,612,000 among the media of the provinces with the majority population of ethnic groups and religious minorities.

⁴⁵ "Alik" press institute, "Arax" monthly and "Peyman" quarterly among Armenians, "Assyrians' ways" and "Assyrians' Message" weekly are among the printed press of Assyrian Christians, and the websites: "Armenian Caliphate of Tehran, Panorama, Newt, Hizb site" Dashnak, Armenian National Assembly, Armenian Press, Alik, Assyrian Radio, Tehran Assyrian Association, Chaldean Catholic Assyrian Caliphate Association of Urmia, etc. are some of the Armenian websites.

⁴⁶ 5 dedicated schools for Jews, 38 schools for Zoroastrians and 50 schools for Christians are active in the field of education in the country.

2. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association, Freedom of Speech, and Access to Information and the Right to Political Participation⁴⁷

36. According to Article 26 of the Constitution, the freedom to form parties, communities, political and trade associations is recognized. On this basis, Iran has endeavored to foster an environment conducive to the participation of such entities. Several initiatives have been undertaken in this context, including:

- The ratification of the act on the formation and activity of trade and professional organizations (February 2023) and the approval of its executive regulations in the same month;
- Approval of the law amending articles of the Islamic Parliament Elections Act (August 2023);
- Issuing instructions for protecting people's data on platforms and website (January 2024);
- Drafting of the bill "holding assemblies and marches";
- Compilation of the Comprehensive Election Law Bill (December 2022),⁴⁸
- Formation of the non-governmental organizations caucus in the Parliament.

37. Regarding the right to peaceful assembly, it should be noted that daily meetings, social-political conferences and public assemblies are held in the country by parties and organizations without any permit requirements. Also, a large number of protest gatherings on trade union or pension issues also occur spontaneously in front of centers such as the Parliament, and in most of these cases, while providing security and the opportunity to protest, the members of the parliament respond to the gatherings. Some measures to guarantee and fulfill this right are as follows:

- Issuance of 480 trade union and specialized organization licenses;
- Issuance of 1,636 activity licenses of NGOs from 2020 to 2024;⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Recommendations: 26.162, 26.167, 26.324, 26.325, 26.326, 26.329, 26.157, 26.161, 26.165, 26.169, 26.156

⁴⁸ Revision of candidates' conditions, voting methods, financial resources of electoral contests, determination of electoral districts, etc.

⁴⁹ Out of the total number of NGOs, 74 have a consultative status from the United Nations, which are active in the fields of human rights.

- Issuing 140 new political party permits;
 - Issuing 14 thousand licenses for labor and employer organizations by the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare;
 - Creation of a specialized desk of NGOs in the High Council for Human Rights;
 - Creation of a specialized desk of non-governmental organizations in the field of health and hygiene in the Ministry of Health;
 - Creation of a specialized desk of non-governmental organizations in the Ministry of Justice;
 - Holding training and empowerment courses for NGOs.
38. The right to freedom of expression and access to information is protected and guaranteed in principles 24, 26, 27 and 175 of the Constitution. In this connection, it should be mentioned that 13,695 media (both print, online and offline) are currently active.⁵⁰ In order to ensure the freedom and transparency of information, in addition to domestic news agencies, 315 journalists and foreign media are active in Iran and 151 foreign media are represented in the country.⁵¹ Also, more than 116 million people are fixed and mobile internet users with a penetration rate of 137 percent.
39. Following its launch, more than 2 thousand public and private devices have been connected to the website of publishing and free access to information in 2017. According to Article 15 of the Executive Regulations of Article 8 of the Law on Publishing and Free Access to Information enacted by the Council of Ministers in June 2021, all institutions involved are required to nominate a person to provide answers to people's requests on the website.
40. In relation to creating a safe and suitable environment for the civil society activities, including women and lawyers, the following points should be noted:

⁵⁰ Among these, 5,605 media are print media, 5,014 are online electronic media, and 3,076 are offline electronic media.

⁵¹ Some other measures include issuing 360 visa permits for journalists and news agents of 162 media from 61 countries, issuing activity permits for 209 non-resident journalists, issuing 781 news cards for resident and non-resident journalists, issuing 797 introduction letters and extending them for resident and non-resident journalists to travel in Iran; Issuance of 479 letters of approval for the issuance of residence permits, multiple-entry visas and visa extensions for resident and non-resident journalists.

- There are more than 23,543 female authors and over 1,051 female publishers, 806 female media managers, 903 female filmmakers and 2,000 female experts in the cinema sector;
 - There are 130,781 lawyers in Iran as well as bar associations in 28 provinces of the country. Bar associations have their own specialized commissions, including human rights commissions. The human rights commission of the Bar Association of the Capital started working in 2004 and has been active for about 20 years. Various committees such as environmental rights, children's rights, education and research, prohibition of violence, minorities and the right to defense have been formed in the human rights commission of the Bar Association, trying to promote human rights over different periods.⁵²
41. As regards guaranteeing the right of political participation of the people, in addition to some legal reforms, 6 elections have been held in the reporting period, including presidential, the Parliament, city and village councils, and the Assembly of Experts elections.

3. Fair Trial and Judicial Justice⁵³

42. The principles governing fair proceedings are articulated in higher-level documents, especially the Constitution. The Code of Criminal Procedure (2014), the Judicial Security Document ratified in 2020, and the Judicial Transformation and Excellence Document (approved in 2021 and revised in April 2024) mandate that judicial authorities adhere to these principles. In the Judicial Transformation and Excellence

⁵² Considering the position of the legal profession in the defense of the citizens' right, diligence in protecting human dignity and litigation and demands in the field of recognizing and promoting the human rights of citizens are among the goals of this commission. This year, with the motto of lawyer for the people, alongside the people, promoting the social responsibility of lawyers in line with human rights assistance is on their agenda. Also, In order to offer professional human rights services, it has taken into consideration the creation of a human rights and citizenship clinic in the aid department and the expansion of advisory, aid and advocacy human rights services. Training lawyers in the field of human rights litigation and guaranteeing fundamental rights and fundamental freedoms is among the goals of this commission.

⁵³ Recommendations: 26.170, 26.172, 26.174, 26.175, 26.178, 26.181, 26.177, 26.176, 26.180

Document, the challenges of the judicial system, such as prolonged proceedings, have been identified and the necessary measures to resolve them have been foreseen.

43. According to Article 477 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in addition to the initial trial, appeals and Supreme Court stages, the possibility of extraordinary retrial proceedings is foreseen by each of the parties of the case by permission of the head of the Judiciary.
44. The independence of the Judiciary is enshrined in Article 156 of the Constitution. Articles 158 and 164 of the Constitution as well as the law on the Periodic Transfer of Judges require that all appointments, transfers and re-assignment of judges must be based on the principles of independence and impartiality. Judges' opinions should also be taken into consideration.⁵⁴
45. The Code of Criminal Procedure in its articles 48, 190, 195, 346, 347 and 348 has provided for the required presence of the defense lawyer in the moment of the accused's detention, the presence of the defense lawyer in the proceedings, the possibility of warning the prosecutor by the lawyer about raising emotional questions, the right to choose a lawyer in criminal matters and offer of legal assistance in case the defendants cannot afford a counsel, and the prohibition of hearings without the presence of a lawyer of one's choosing or appointed by the court in very important crimes.⁵⁵ Also, free legal consultation services are provided by the center of consultants, lawyers and experts of the Judiciary. Also, the 'telephone system 129' was established in 2024 by Judiciary Counselors, Lawyers and Experts Center to provide free access to legal services.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ The Code Criminal Procedure emphasizes the impartiality and independence of judicial authorities in articles 3 and 93, and the impartiality of judges in articles 421 and 372. Also, Articles 576 and 577 of the Penal Code criminalize interference in judicial affairs by other government institutions of any rank and position, and none of the officials have the right to interfere in judicial affairs and prevent the execution of definitive and necessary rulings. The directive to 'preserve the dignity of the employees of the judiciary' (approved in 2021) emphasizes the independence of judges.

⁵⁵ Depriving the accused of the right to have a lawyer and not explaining this right to the accused will result in disciplinary punishment of the eighth degree (temporary suspension from one to six months) and the third degree (deduction of monthly salary up to one third from one to six months). In visiting the police authorities, this issue is continuously monitored. In case the defendant fails to choose a lawyer for financial reasons (insolvency), a public or assistant lawyer will be appointed for them with the coordination of the Bar Association.

⁵⁶ In addition The Sanaa website has been launched to allow disputing parties and their lawyers access to the contents of court files, protect the privacy of the parties, and speed up the processing of the case.

46. In relation to Article 48 of the Criminal Procedure Law, in the "amendment of some articles of the criminal procedure law" bill prepared by the parliament, it is proposed to amend the waiver of this article.
47. As regards the strengthening of the judicial system for women, over 30 child and women protection offices within judicial complexes provide legal, judicial and support services.
48. As far as disabled and vulnerable persons are concerned, the directive "protect the rights of disabled persons and elderly citizens in the judicial process" (July 2023) has been approved and communicated to the relevant officials.
49. Other measures of the judicial system to include the following:
- Revision and approval of the Law on Dispute Settlement Council (September 2023) and fostering peace and reconciliation in cases submitted to the Judiciary through dispute resolution councils across the country;⁵⁷
 - Issuance a directive to preserve the dignity and credibility of witness testimony in the judicial system (March 2020);
 - Approval of the Law on Reducing discretionary custodial sentence (April 2020);
 - Conducting provincial visits by the head of the Judiciary to oversee the proper implementation of fair proceedings;⁵⁸
 - Boosting the possibility of using legal leniency facilities in the case of accused and convicted;⁵⁹
 - Development of support services for prisoners' families and 15 percent growth of covered families.
50. Regarding the fight against corruption, Iran ratified the Act on Improving the Integrity of the Administrative System and combating corruption (2001) and the law on making

⁵⁷ According to the new Law on Dispute Settlement Council, Councils can only compromise between the parties and do not have the right to judicial proceedings. Establishing peace and compromise in 43 percent of the cases received by the dispute resolution councils across the country, which has increased by 15 percent compared to the previous 4 years.

⁵⁸ In 2023, the head of the judiciary traveled to the provinces of East Azerbaijan, Kerman, Ardabil, Isfahan, Bushehr, Fars, Golestan and Razavi Khorasan, Kurdistan, Mazandaran, Alborz and Tehran (Varamin city) and received 11,421 public requests which were processed in due course.

⁵⁹ For example, only in 2023, 2,813 people were granted amnesty and released and 5,313 people were given commuted sentences, of which 101 were foreigners.

this Act permanent (2020). Based on that, the monitoring bodies including the country's General Inspection Organization, the Supreme Audit Court and the Administrative Court of Justice supervise such affairs. With the formation of a special body to deal with economic crimes, such crimes are dealt with.

3. Detention and Imprisonment Rights⁶⁰

51. To ensure the rights of detained and imprisoned persons, in addition to the safeguards provided in the Code of Criminal Procedure approved in 2013, the Executive Regulations of the Prisons Security and Corrective Measures Organization have been revised and approved in 2021. In line with international standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules, these regulations stipulates significant inhibitive and encouraging guarantees in the field of supervision, communication system between prisoners and supervisory authorities, judicial assistance, establishment of offices for the protection of prisoners' rights, health and treatment services, education and employment opportunities which ensures respect for human dignity and respect for legitimate rights and freedoms. The third part of the Regulations has detailed the rights of prisoners, protective measures and legal leniency.⁶¹ Some other actions are as follows:

- Issuing a circular explaining the rights of detainees, respect for their dignity and how to monitor detention centers based on Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Declaration;
- Conducting visits to prisons by supervisory authorities throughout the country and meeting prisoners;⁶²
- Providing counsel from the Head of the Judiciary regarding the need to respect the rights of the accused and the detained individuals to the judicial authorities.⁶³

⁶⁰ Recommendations: 26.142, 26.145, 26.146, 26.147, 26.140, 26.151

⁶¹ Under the chapters of prisoners' rights, health, treatment, nutrition and clothing, employment and vocational training support measures, legal agreements from articles 107 to 232.

⁶² In 2023, 143,295 visits have been made to the country's prisons, which have been carried out with their requests in the field of granting leave, employment and exercising legal leniency provisions.

⁶³ For example, in the joint meeting of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary and the Supreme Judicial Council of the Provinces, which was held in January 2022, the head of the judiciary issued recommendations regarding the observance of the rights of the accused and detainees. Some of these recommendations are briefly mentioned:

- Creation of 28 detention centers for prisoners with an infrastructure of 150,926 square meters and an accommodation capacity of 14,670 people, and creating suitable and standard spaces with an infrastructure of 122,736 square meters and accommodation capacity of 17,114 people to compensate for the per capita lack of dormitory space, and adaptation improvement of spaces with infrastructure of 921,972 square meters.
 - Helping prisoners to find employment by providing employment facilities, creation and activation of 31 prominent provincial employment units in prisons across the country, approving the tax exemption for investing in the employment of prisoners in the budget law, conducting vocational training courses (459,799 people from 2020-2023) and launching a system for the online sale of prisoners' products;
 - In addition to the facilities of face-to-face meetings and phone calls, providing the possibility of smart meetings of prisoners through the Internet;
52. Regarding the prohibition of torture and prevention of any ill-treatment during detention and imprisonment, Article 108 of the Executive Regulations of the Prisons Organization absolutely prohibits the commission of any inappropriate conduct including aggressive and derogatory behavior, use of insulting speech and resorting to any mental and physical torture by the staff of the institution towards the prisoners; depending on the case, this action may lead to disciplinary actions or criminal prosecution of the violator. Also, all detention centers are controlled and monitored based on Note 2, Article 3 of the Prison Organization's Executive Regulations, and inspection boards visit all detention centers across the country on a rotating and sometimes sudden basis. In relation to the security detention centers, the relevant officials are required to provide the maximum necessary cooperation in order to

taking the necessary measures in order to fully comply with the legal aspects and avoid the least harm and damage to the dignity of the accused and their families during the arrest, inspection of the homes or workplaces of the accused; avoiding using handcuffs and leg shackles when arresting the accused in front of their family and colleagues; avoiding the arrest of people who do not need to be arrested; the necessity of taking the necessary measures regarding security orders once the charges are explained, in such a way that the accused person can post bonds as soon as possible and not in such a way that due to the delay in the filing of the order, the accused person will be committed to the detention center and their families sustain harms or injury, the necessity of applying sufficient care in the inspection of the accused's home or workplace and avoiding inspection in cases where it is not necessary; use of alternative prison sentences; putting emphasis on honoring the families of prisoners and paying special attention to the health and hygiene of prisons and prisoners.

implement the regulations, carry out inspections, quickly respond to the inquiries of the officials of the organization and the general managers of prisons across the country, as well as immediately register the information of the detainees on Sajaza Website.

53. According to the Executive Regulations of the Prisons Security and Corrective Measures Organization, this organization is required to provide health and treatment services. For this, some of these services are mentioned: provision of health and treatment services from the beginning of the arrival, health screening including obtaining records of physical diseases and history of infectious diseases, providing vaccination services, providing mental health services in prisons, providing medical services in prisons for free and, if necessary, sending to the hospital, taking care of nutritional health, environmental health, etc;⁶⁴
54. During the Covid-19 pandemic, significant actions were undertaken within prisons despite the challenges posed by illegal unilateral sanctions, including sending prisoners on furlough prioritizing the elderly, pregnant women, lactating women, etc., implementing national protocols and developing specific protocols for prisons, screening incoming prisoners for timely and early diagnosis of the infected and sending them to special hospitals for the treatment of Covid-19, vaccination, continuous disinfection of the environment, training of prisoners and personnel, setting up an electronic courtrooms⁶⁵ and giving the prisoners the possibility of online Meeting with their families.
55. In line with the consular protection of foreign prisoners, in addition to the implementation of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963), the Directive to Organizing and Accelerating the Process of International Judicial Affairs (approved in November 2023) has been declared by the head of the Judiciary, which guarantees the rights of foreign nationals to a fair trial.

⁶⁴ In this context, 2,074,419 visits have been made in prisons, of which 81,119 cases have been sent to hospitals, in the reporting period. Also, an average of 82,051 addicted prisoners has been treated during the year.

⁶⁵ Creation of more than 1400 electronic hearing rooms in the prisons of the country during Covid-19 pandemic for the judicial handling of prisoners' cases.

E. Implementation of the Recommendations of the Third Round Regarding Economic, social and cultural rights

1. The Right to Education⁶⁶

56. The gender gap in primary and secondary education has been completely bridged and the enrollment percentage of female students has increased by 115 percent in primary school and 84 percent in high school. Currently, the ratio of female to male students is 49 percent, which is almost equal to the ratio of women in the society.

57. The number of students in all education programs in the school year 2023-2024 is 16,200,000 people, in which about 1,100,000 students have been added to the education system, compared to 2022.⁶⁷

58. All students have access to the official education of the country and it is forbidden to expel students for any reason. Children, who are deprived of the right to education due to reasons such as dropping out of school, illness, etc., will receive non-attendance education based on the regulations governing distance education institutions. Some measures to prevent academic failure are as follows:

- Criminalization of preventing students from studying, in the Child and Adolescent Protection Act (2020);⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Recommendations: 26.68, 26.205, 26.206, 26.207, 26.208, 26.209, 26.210, 26.211, 26.212, 26.213, 26.214, 26.215, 26.216, 26.217, 26.218, 26.219, 26.220, 26.221, 26.222.

⁶⁷ Also, 1,048,879 students are studying in non-government schools. There are 107,171 schools in Iran, of which 61,346 are primary schools, 23,079 are junior high schools, 21,186 are high schools, and 1,560 are schools for children with special needs. It should be noted that there are 21,702 preschool centers. Also, the total number of vocational schools in the country is 6,983.

⁶⁸ In order to support children's education and based on Article 7 of the Protection of Children and Adolescents Act (ratified in 2019), each of the child's guardians is responsible for providing the means for the child's education until the end of the secondary school period, otherwise, they will be fined (degree 7). Also, according to Article 6 of this Act, in order to prevent dropouts, the Ministry of Education is responsible for identification, announcing non-registration cases to the State Welfare Organization or the Judiciary's Child and Adolescent Protection Office, and for taking necessary measures for registration and complete educational coverage and training of managers and educational and administrative staff.

- Approval of the executive regulations of schools in the Supreme Council of Education (August 2021);
 - Creating diversity in equal educational opportunities to expand and universalize education, such as schools in central villages, distance learning and boarding schools;
 - Launching a special website for identifying and recruiting out-of-school children;
 - Tapping into the extra-organizational capacities of benefactors, NGOs, etc., to support those identified as out of school;
 - Holding extra-curricular classes to offset the drop in academic performance of enrolled students;
 - Empowering officers and managers to effectively intervene in reducing the dropout rate.
59. To achieve the goal of Literacy for all, 1,146,529 people were attended to the Literacy Movement in different levels from 2020 to 2023. About 48 percent of literacy activities are allocated to rural areas. Also, with the aim of improving literacy in the nomadic community, the Literacy Movement has taught 93,031 people during the years 2020 to 2024.⁶⁹
60. In the emergency situation induced by Covid-19 pandemic, Shad platform and the IRIB were utilized in addition to face-to-face teaching.
61. Regarding the education of non-Iranian children, in the school year 2023, the number of non-Iranian students enrolled in Iranian schools was 614,199, of which 51 percent were boys and 49 percent were girls. Afghan students make up more than 93 percent of non-Iranian students studying in Iran.
62. The education of students with disabilities in inclusive public schools has grown by 20 percent. Also, services are provided for children with disabilities, especially in rural

⁶⁹ The difference in the literacy rate between urban and rural areas has decreased from 10.9 percent at the beginning of 2020 to about 9.5 percent in 2023.

and underprivileged areas, such as free transportation service, customized textbooks at a minimum price, free Braille paper for visually impaired children, etc.

63. The education of prisoners is done through the three courses offered by Literacy Movement, Education System and the Higher Education.⁷⁰

64. As far as higher education is concerned, there are 3,249,601 people studying at different programs, more than 50 percent of whom are women.⁷¹ The ratio of female faculty members at universities has increased to more than 33.3 percent. Also, women make up 40 percent of the faculty members of medical sciences universities and 60 percent of the teachers' community.

2. The right to health⁷²

65. With its efforts, Iran's Healthcare Network System has been able to create coverage of about 93 percent for rural people and 98 percent for urban areas in order to access first-level services. The "Health System Transformation Plan" is being implemented with the aim of reducing the financial costs of health and treatment for citizens, organizing hospital services and improving the quality and fair access of people to medical services. Some of the results of the implementation of this plan are as described below:

- Reducing the people's share of hospitalization costs from 37 percent to 3 percent for rural residents and 6 percent for urban residents and providing financial support to 26 million hospitalized patients;
- Reducing the referral of people to get medicine and medical equipment outside the hospital to less than 3 percent;
- 47 percent increase in the recruitment of doctors in rural areas, nomads and cities with population of less than 20 thousand;

⁷⁰ In relation to the Literacy Movement in 2023, 4009 people have been covered, which is an increase of about 1000 people compared to 2020. In relation to formal education in 2023, 8,996 students were educated in prisons, a growth of more than 63 percent compared to 2020. Also, in relation to higher education, the number of students increased from 122 people in 2020 to 195 people in 2023 by drafting a cooperation agreement with Payam Noor University and Scientific-Applied University.

⁷¹ Of the total number of students, 1,631,096 (50.2 percent) are female students and 1,618,505 (49.8 percent) are male students.

⁷² Recommendations: 26.183, 26.196, 26.197, 26.198, 26.199, 26.200, 26.201, 26.202, 26.203, 26.204

- Allocation of one health center for every 12,500 individuals on average, in suburban and urban areas;
- Allocating a comprehensive health service center for every 25 to 50 thousand people in slums and urban areas along with providing nutritional and psychological services;
- Creation of 126 nomadic health houses and provision and equipping of 400 nomadic health houses;
- Construction and development of 178 hospitals;
- Setting up 80 centers to provide dental services to people with special or intractable medical conditions in 10 metro-regions of the country.

66. In order to ensure the health and health care of mother and child, the most important measures are mentioned:

- Reducing the mortality rate of children less than 5 years from 14.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2019 to 13 in 2023;
- Reducing the mortality rate of pregnant mothers in the country to 20 per 100,000 live births;
- Realization of 100 percent infertility treatment insurance;⁷³
- Delivering more than 300,000 births in government centers for free, performing more than 95 percent of births by obstetricians and gynecologists;⁷⁴
- Setting up 34 single specialty hospitals to support mothers and children;
- Implementation of the livelihood assistance plan to support the nutrition of malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers in needy households, focusing on less privileged provinces.⁷⁵

⁷³ It should be noted that in line with infertility treatment, 87 level 2 infertility treatment centers have been established and the infertility treatment centers of level 3 have also increased. These centers have increased from 70 centers in 2021 to 126 centers (including 50 government centers) in 2024 and have provided 1,112,683 specialized services to clients in the past three years.

⁷⁴ Some other services provided to expectant mothers are as follows: development of painless birth centers, holding 270 thousand classes for 510 thousand expectant mothers, creating a virtual training space for preparation for childbirth, as well as providing non-attendance services to expectant mothers through the telephone system to promote natural delivery.

⁷⁵ 72,338 families with children under 5 years of age, pregnant and lactating women in need of the family nutrition improvement program in 2023.

67. The most important support measures for people with special, intractable and rare conditions in 2020-2024 are as follows:

- Making certain medical expenses of certain patients covered by the Social Security Organization free of charge;
- Insurance coverage of more than 196 medicine;
- Providing free of charge services of injection of chemotherapy drugs, radiotherapy, brachytherapy, dialysis, transfusion of blood and various blood factors, specialized tests for prenatal diagnosis of hemophilia and thalassemia.⁷⁶

68. The number of insured persons covered by Social Security Organization, health insurance and rural and nomadic insurance has grown from 4,409,0020 people in 2020 to 4,8317,709 people in 2024.

69. The main measures to deal with the spread of Covid-19 are as follows:

- Formation of the National Headquarters to fight against Covid-19 headed by the President;
- Conducting free and public vaccination on three occasions throughout the country;
- Setting up mobile vaccination teams to administer vaccines for the elderly living in remote villages and disabled elderly in the city;
- Launching educational campaigns against Covid-19, conducting educational campaigns and preparing educational materials, distributing and publishing them in the virtual space;
- Activation of selected 16-hour comprehensive health service centers to provide care, medical, etc. services in line with the prevention of Covid-19 and to provide free services to suspected patients;
- Production and distribution of sanitary items throughout the country;
- Conducting mental health and nutrition counseling for Corona patients and their families;
- Distribution of health packages among high-risk groups for free;

⁷⁶ Providing freely specialized medicine for people with MS, hemophilia, thalassemia and dialysis, performing kidney transplant surgery, kidney transplant specific medicine, etc.

- Payment of unemployment benefits to those who were unemployed during the outbreak of Covid-19, amounting to 1,268,109 people per month;
- Postponement of the employer's share of insurance premium (20 percent) for businesses affected by the spread of Corona;
- Forgiveness of the fines of employers of production, industrial, mining and service units as well as trade unions;
- Payment of wage compensation to the insured affected by Covid-19 in the number of 446,916 people;
- Informed and rational participation of citizens in complying with health recommendations.

3. Rights of Having a Decent Standard of Living⁷⁷

70. Iran's approach is to remove deprivation and discrimination from all parts of the country and to create sustainable development in throughout the country, especially the underprivileged regions.⁷⁸

71. The most important legislative measures are as follows:

- Allocating a significant part of the Law on the Sixth Development Plan (2017 to 2021) to rural development and deprivation alleviation;⁷⁹
- Allocation of provisions of the Seventh Development Plan Law from 2024 to 2027 (approved in May 2024) to rural and low-income areas;⁸⁰

⁷⁷ Recommendations: 26.88, 26.186, 26.187, 26.188, 26.192, 26.182, 26.184, 26.185, 26.189, 26.191, 26.193, 26.194, 26.195, 26.190

⁷⁸ In this connection, several structures have been established, including the Vice President for Rural Development and Underprivileged Regions, the State Welfare Organization, the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation, the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, Construction Jihad, Literacy Movement, and the Foundation for the Oppressed and Veterans of the Islamic Revolution.

⁷⁹ According to the law of the Sixth Development Plan, the government is responsible for economic development and job creation in 5000 villages by using local capacities, securing 30 percent of the villages at risk, developing electronic service infrastructure, creating annual jobs for one hundred thousand people covered by the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee and the State Welfare Organization have been allocated a percentage of the income of the free trade zones for the poverty alleviation of the natives, etc.

⁸⁰ including the provision of sustainable development of employment with priority in deprived and rural areas, provision of a 20 percent increase in the ratio of facilities to deposits for deprived and underprivileged provinces

- Ratification of Law on Organizing and Monitoring Border Trade and Creating Sustainable Employment for Border Dwellers (March 2023);
- Allocation of 3 percent of the revenues of the export of crude oil and natural gas to the development of less privileged areas based on the Law of Permanent Decrees of the Country's Development Programs;
- Council of Ministers' enactment regarding the requirement of all executive bodies to allocate funds needed for the implementation of cultural activities and measures for villages (July 2021);
- Council of Ministers' enactment regarding the import of 1,000 donated tablets for the benefit of orphaned and needy students from virtual education in underprivileged areas during the Covid-19 pandemic (April 2021);
- Ratification of the Population Youth Act (November 2021) and the government's obligation to provide housing for families after the birth of their third child;

72. The main executive measures are as follows:

- Construction and retrofitting of about 350,000 houses in villages, payment of facilities for renovation and improvement of rural housing for 545,688 units, giving grants to low-income classes and individual assignment of 79,104 land plots in the form of 99-year lease in the villages (2021 to 2024).
- Supply of electricity to 550 villages with more than five households and supplying gas to 4,500 villages and implementing the plan of 6,500 kilometers of rural roads in the country (2021 to 2024)
- Providing access to the internet and telephone for 95 percent of the country's rural population (a 12 percent increase in the last three years);

and regions during the implementation years of the program in order to achieve justice in the distribution of banking resources, considering the costs of building, completing, equipping and developing cultural, artistic and sports places and spaces in disadvantaged and underprivileged areas as taxes for legal entities, increasing the share of granting facilities and risk coverage to active cooperatives in the field of agriculture or supply energy and border cooperatives of deprived areas and mobility of border exports, application of exemptions and legal privileges for investment in deprived and less developed areas etc.

- Revival of 8,400 stagnant production units based on the Law on Supporting the Development and Creation of Sustainable Employment in Rural and Nomadic Areas and creating 195,000 direct and indirect jobs;
- Generalizing and expanding the insurance of villagers and nomads to 19,831,814 people within the framework of social insurance fund for farmers, villagers and nomads until the end of 2023;
- Identifying and supporting people in low income deciles (deciles 1 to 5) by creating a welfare system for Iranians and providing targeted cash and non-cash subsidies and implementing an electronic coupon plan to provide basic items;⁸¹
- In the emergency situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, granting monthly subsistence allowance to low-income households covered by support organizations, as well as granting 21 million households micro-facilities to affected families and paying grants to about 3 million people;
- Creation of more than 43 joint border markets with neighboring countries in four border provinces (West Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Kermanshah and Sistan and Baluchistan);
- Establishing the country's largest ocean port in Chabahar despite US sanctions and connecting the North-South corridor (India, Iran and Russia) through this route by implementing the national Chabahar-Zahedan railway project;⁸²
- Creation of 31 seamen's clearance docks in the southern coast provinces (Khuzestan, Bushehr, Hormozgan, Sistan and Baluchistan);
- Provision of skill training to 2,280,937 people by the country's Technical and Vocational Organization, and 10.7 percent of the training provided was related to the provinces of Sistan and Baluchistan, Khuzestan and Kurdistan. Also, 51 percent of these trainings were related to women.

⁸¹ Also, Government implements the Equity Distribution Plan with the aim of expanding social justice and empowering low-income households.

⁸² The government's macro approach to economic growth and development of deprived areas is to create and develop free commercial-industrial and special economic zones. Currently, out of 9 free trade zones in Iran, 6 are in less developed areas.

- As for the provision of the right to water, by the end of 2023, the population covered by water facilities in the urban sector reached 99.91 percent with an increase of 0.71 percent compared to the previous reporting period, and reached 86.84 percent in the rural sector with an increase of 6.82 percent. Also, the coverage of water facilities in the whole country has reached 96.93 percent. With the implementation of Jihad water supply project, drinking water has been provided to 5300 villages;
- Implementation of the water safety program in 106 cities and 57 villages with the aim of ensuring the quality of drinking water in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization;
- Creation of 74 thousand kilometers of collection network and sewage transmission lines and development of 264 treatment plant units covering 55.89 percent of the population in the urban sector and 0.67 percent in the rural sector in 2023;
- Establishing the National Housing Action System to provide loans and deposit assistance with the aim of supporting tenants who lack the financial ability to rent housing.⁸³

F. Implementation of the Recommendations of the Third Round Regarding Rights of Individuals

1. Women's Rights⁸⁴

73. Due to the importance of protecting and promoting women's rights, several measures have been taken. In this regard, some of the most important legislative measures are mentioned:

- Allocating a significant part of the 7th Development Plan to support women and families, including in the field of empowering and supporting women-headed

⁸³ In this regard, more than 404,000 housing deposit assistance facilities have been paid in the last two years.

⁸⁴ Recommendations: 26.223, 26.224, 26.226, 26.227, 26.228, 26.229, 26.230, 26.231, 26.234, 26.235, 26.236, 26.148, 26.237, 26.238, 26.248, 26.246, 26.249, 26.252, 36.255, 26.256, 26.257, 26.258, 26.259, 26.261, 26.255, 26.233, 26.245, 26.250, 26.251, 26.260, 26.80.

households and those who are ill-provided, empowering rural and nomadic women, supporting women's employment and infertility health;

- Ratification of the Family and Youth Protection Act with the approach of supporting mothers, pregnant and lactating women (November 10, 2021);
- General approval of the bill "Preventing Women's Harms and Improving Their Safety against Abuse";
- Approval of the support package to help housing finance needs of women-headed households (August 2021);
- Approval of the rules for insurance coverage of infertility treatment services and insurance coverage of prenatal care and health services for women and newborns (amended in August 2022);
- Drafting and presenting the bill to join “Women's Development Organization” of OIC to the parliament, in line with constructive and consistent interactions with Islamic governments.

74. Regarding the employment of women, in 2023, the share of women in employment in agriculture, service and industry sectors was 18.6, 55.7 and 25.7 percent respectively. Also, the share of female graduates of higher education from the working population is 44.3 percent.⁸⁵ Some measures to support employment are as follows:

- Allocation of 41 percent of the two million and 600 thousand created jobs, 30 percent of all business licenses and 80 percent of home business licenses to women;
- Supporting the establishment of 250 knowledge-based companies by women; meanwhile 735 women are CEOs and 2390 women are board members of knowledge-based companies;

⁸⁵ It is necessary to explain that women make up 44 percent of the country's administrative system employees, 98 percent of obstetrician and gynecology surgeons, 40 percent of specialized doctors and 30 percent of super-specialized doctors in the country. Also, 41 percent of production units and 45 percent of clothing distribution units in the country belong to women. Currently, 4000 women entrepreneurs are active in the country and 20 percent of the country's entrepreneurship centers are managed by women.

- Inception of 1223 women's cooperative companies with 12196 members and 18900 job opportunities (22 percent growth of women's cooperatives);
- Strengthening women's self-employment by granting facilities;
- Providing technical and vocational training to women and facilitating the sale of their products;⁸⁶
- Social security insurance coverage for rural and tribal women and girls, housewives, women-headed households.⁸⁷

75. Regarding the presence of women in decision-making positions and their political participation, the following measures can be mentioned:

- Four women are appointed in the government by the President;⁸⁸
- 14 women are elected as representatives in the parliament;⁸⁹
- Women are appointed as ambassadors in the embassies and representative offices of Iran;
- 15 deputy provincial governors, 4 city governors, 60 deputy city governors, 53 county mayors and 2955 village mayors are all female;
- The appointment of women as managers rose from 19,597 people in 2020 to 40,683 people in 2023;
- The position of female advisers, which is equal to the deputy minister, is created in the country's executive bodies;
- 1006 female judges are appointed.

76. In line with the measures taken to promote women's sports, the activity of 117,843 women as referees in domestic events and 217,638 women as coaches in various sports

⁸⁶ For example, in 2022, more than 352,000 women have been given skill training.

⁸⁷ Social security insurance coverage was provided for 510,939 rural and nomadic women and girls, and coverage for 349,733 women-headed households and Relief Committee clients from 2020 to 2023.

⁸⁸ The Minister of Roads and Urban Development, the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, the Vice President and Head of the Environmental Protection Organization and the spokesperson of the government are female members of the government.

⁸⁹ In the registration process, a total of 1636 people registered; including 137 women and 1,499 men.

fields, 352 female referees in international events, winning 1,191 medals in international sports events, winning 2 medals in the Olympics and 6 medals in the 2024 Paralympics is noteworthy.

77. In relation to dealing with violence against women, in addition to the general approval of the bill "Preventing Women's Harms and Improving Their Safety against Abuse, the most important measures are as follows:

- Providing legal assistance and support by special offices for the protection of women and children in all judicial complexes;
- Holding training courses by the National Committee for the Prevention of Violence stationed in the Judiciary;
- launching 31 safe houses and five centers to deal with perpetrators of violence in the country;
- Establishing 430 clinics across the country to provide services to women in need;
- Providing mobile social emergency services to women in need;
- Having 153 active hotlines throughout the country;
- Enjoying 27 support and rehabilitation centers for socially disadvantaged women and girls in 24 provinces;
- Enjoying 52 health centers for girls exposed to social harm in the country.

2. Children's Rights⁹⁰

78. Iran has planned and implemented extensive measures to protect the rights of children and adolescents, the most important of which are mentioned below:

- Ratification of the Protection of Children and Adolescents Act on May 12, 2020;
- Amending the bylaws for granting guardianship as well as the protection of ill-cared and orphaned children in order to promote the family-based approach of child care;
- Drafting a bill to amend Article 612 of the Islamic Penal Code (approved on May 22, 1996) with the issue of intensifying the punishment of the father in the case of child

⁹⁰ Recommendations: 26.262, 26.263, 26.264, 26.266, 26.269, 26.280, 26.281, 26.284, 26.267, 26.268, 26.271, 26.273, 26.277, 26.282

murder and creating restrictions on his right to guardianship and custody over other children;

- Approval of the document on the protection of children and adolescents in cyberspace (June 2021).

79. In order to protect children in the judicial process, in addition to the measures adopted in the Protection of Children and Adolescents Act (ratified in 2020), the following measures have also been taken:

- Planning and implementing a counseling system in juvenile courts in order to maximize the use of social institutions and alternative punishments of imprisonment;
- Setting up Shough Zendegi (joie de vivre) complexes with the aim of providing judicial and legal assistance and monitoring the proper implementation of judicial decisions and decisions related to children and adolescents in one third of the country's provinces;
- Launching "Child and Adolescent Protection Office of the Judiciary" in courts across the country;
- Establishing 192 meeting centers for children of divorce (family compassion) throughout the country;
- Establishing 30 workshops of juvenile justice system to train judges, lawyers, and police force and social workers;
- Drafting two guidelines for the implementation of Article 91 of the Islamic Penal Code in order to provide the necessary training to medical examiners and judges of juvenile cases;
- Drafting national guidelines for the diversion of children and juvenile crimes in order to achieve non-judicial resolution of crimes related to children;
- Promoting the application of alternative punishments to imprisonment and developing dispute resolution and creating peace and reconciliation.

80. In order to prevent violence against children and tackle perpetrators of violence, the following measures have been taken:

- Criminalization of cases of violence against children in the Protection of Children and Adolescents Act ratified in 2020;
- Establishing special investigation branches and criminal courts in the judicial system to deal with child abuse crimes;
- Preparing educational content and holding educational workshops for children, parents and teachers, judges, social workers, bailiffs and all those involved in cases related to violence;
- Providing free special support services through intervention centers in individual and family crisis, social emergency centers, social service base and mobile social emergency;
- Networking of NGOs and employing their capacities for violence prevention;
- Launching an SMS line to receive reports of child abuse.

81. Regarding raising the minimum age of marriage, in addition to the criminalization of premature marriages in Article 50 of the Family Support Act (ratified in 2012), the cultural and social changes created in the country and the increase in the education level of girls and women have led to a higher minimum age of marriage. In this connection, with the efforts made and the implementation of educational and cultural programs, the marriage of girls under the age of 18 has decreased by 25 percent from 2021 to 2023.⁹¹

82. In order to support victims of child labor, in association with NGOs, 31 centers for organizing street children of the State Welfare Organization, provide free support and welfare services to children and their families with two family-oriented approaches and reducing psychological and social harms. Also, economic exploitation of people under

⁹¹ In line with measures to prevent marriage, two-page birth certificates are issued for people under 15, which only include personal and local information for registering birth and death events, and no other event such as marriage is recorded in it. As a result, the applicant for such a marriage must go to the court to change the birth certificate and obtain a marriage license in accordance with the civil law.

the age of 18 has been criminalized in the Child and Adolescent Protection Act. In this regard, the project "Social Support for Labor and Street Children" has been implemented with the aim of empowering the child and family and helping them get out of the support cycle of the State Welfare Organization.

83. It should be noted that on average, 60 percent of labor and street children are foreign nationals. Based on the principle of philanthropy and respecting children's rights, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, and language, the government provides them all kinds of services just like Iranian children.

3. Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly⁹²

84. Guaranteeing protecting the rights of people with disabilities is a priority in the country. According to the Article 32 of the "Protection of the Rights of the Disabled" Act, the institutions involved must submit an annual report of their actions to the coordination and monitoring committee for the implementation of this law. Some legislative and executive measures to guarantee and protect the rights of the persons with disabilities are as follows:

- Approval of the "Protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and the elderly in the judicial process" directive with the aim of ensuring equal access to justice by providing legal protections (June 2023);⁹³
- Creating a database of members of the community of persons with disabilities in the country's State Welfare Organization;
- Raising public awareness by using the capacity of the IRIB,⁹⁴ provision of lesson in elementary and secondary school text-books, holding several webinars by academic

⁹² Recommendations: 26.285, 26.286, 26.287, 26.288, 26.289, 26.290, 26.291, 26.292, 26.293, 26.294, 26.295, 26.60, 26.61.

⁹³ The approval of this directive was the result of an inter-sectoral cooperation with the effective participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations.

⁹⁴ There are more than 24 thousand hours of different programs aimed at supporting the rights of people with disabilities from national, provincial and news channels.

and research centers⁹⁵ and using the capacities of cyber space by producing and disseminating information;

- Notification of the approval of compliance with the laws and regulations related to the adaptation of public places by the headquarters of coordination and follow-up of the adaptation of the country;
- Facilitating and improving the movement of persons with disabilities, a total of about 25,000 cases of commuting allowance are paid annually; At present, more than 800 people with disabilities have benefited from special number plates and 3621 people have benefited from the permission to enter the congestion restricted zones.
- Providing more than 723 thousand people with health insurance services;
- Training 350 sign language interpreter and dispatching 6800 interpreters throughout the country to follow up and meet the needs of the hearing impaired;
- Providing rehabilitation services with the aim of improving the quality of life and integration of disabled people into the society through daily educational rehabilitation centers;⁹⁶
- The institution of internal committees in municipalities with a population of over 200,000 to identify and plan for the implementation of improvement measures at the city level, and the results of the actions of these committees include improvement measures in the main and high-traffic roads to facilitate the passage of the physically impaired and physically disabled in most cities with over 200,000 people;
- Providing remote educational and rehabilitation services;
- Increasing the provision of housing facilities and the payment of free credits for the disabled and families with disabled children, and the provision of benefits for the repair of residential units, the provision of free housing in the form of the National Housing

⁹⁵ Holding numerous webinars under the title "beyond disability in the mirror of law and society" by Shahid Beheshti University in association with civil organizations and executive bodies. Its electronic file is available to the public.

⁹⁶ For example, in 2023, 915 centers have provided services to 38,891 people, of which 34,000 people received financial assistance.

Movement Plan, and the handing over of 50,000 purchased or built residential units to welfare applicants from 2021 to 2024;

- Payment of salaries, benefits, pensions and other expenses for people injured by landmines and victims of imposed war;⁹⁷
- Provision of rehabilitation aids, cochlear implantation, provision of prosthetic organs and orthopedic services.

85. In the field of the welfare of the elderly, the State Welfare Organization has provided support services in various fields in cooperation with the private sector as well as non-governmental organizations.

4. Rights of Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers⁹⁸

86. During the last four decades, Iran has hosted a large population of asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants who have settled in cities, villages and 22 guest cities. Due to the political changes and the irresponsible withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan in 2021, Iran has hosted a new flux of Afghan refugees, which reaches more than 3.4 million people according to the statistics of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.⁹⁹ Most Afghan nationals seek to immigrate to Western countries and consider Iran as a temporary opportunity to access employment, health, education; therefore they do not seek the legal status of refugees in Iran. However, the majority of foreign nationals remain in Iran even with unauthorized legal status and even without participating in the census; benefiting from public subsidies and services and capacities of Iran. Below are the main services provided by Iran that goes beyond what is foreseen in the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951):

⁹⁷ In this context, about 500,000 people have benefited from salaries, pensions, livelihood assistance or nursing rights until the end of 2023.

⁹⁸ Recommendations: 26.321, 26.322, 26.323


⁹⁹ Other statistics indicate that there are between 6 and 8 million Afghans in Iran, who are mostly illegal.

- Creating equal education conditions for foreign nationals children, as well as constructing 109 schools with 1100 special classes for them and providing literacy services to 201,211 middle-aged foreign nationals;¹⁰⁰
- Providing healthcare services in 105 centers with public funds (in guest cities and cities where refugees are located) and establishing 39 health service centers for refugees with international aid;
- Establishing Iranian health insurance for 1,174,376 refugees and granting more than 1,000 cases of help for the treatment of incurable diseases;
- Performing Covid-19 vaccination amounting to 4.8 million doses;
- Promulgating the directive to facilitate the provision of services related to the employment permits of entrepreneurs and depositors of foreign nationals (August 2022);
- Setting up an online employment website for foreign nationals for quick and easy response;
- Job empowerment of 33000 people by providing technical and vocational training through 338 workshops;¹⁰¹
- Issuing or renewing 32,715 work permits from 2020 to 2024 and having accident and social security insurance. Also, in the same period, 894,349 work cards were issued or renewed;
- Providing services by international organizations (7 UN offices) and organizations active in the field of immigrants and refugees (including 15 domestic NGOs and 14 international NGOs)

87. Iran treats refugees based on international laws. Asylum applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and fairly, without any discrimination. Those who entered or stayed the country illegally, despite the fact that they violated sovereignty and laws of

¹⁰⁰ In the school year 2023-2023, the number of non-Iranian students enrolled in Iranian schools was 614 thousand and 199 people. About 51 percent of them were boys and 49 percent were girls.

¹⁰¹ The per capita cost of technical vocational training for each person is IRR 41,748,103, and international organizations pay only 30 percent of this amount.




the country, are treated in accordance with the law and with respect for human dignity and international standards. Even in the case of undocumented Afghan nationals, who make up the majority of illegal nationals living in the country, unlike other countries that arrest and imprison them, Iran simply deport them without imposing imprisonment, detention or punishment. In addition, for the voluntary return of undocumented Afghan nationals to their country, "self-identified undocumented national return centers" have been set up, through which people without legal documents can leave the country in a self-identified manner.

88. According to Articles 1, 12 and 13 of the birth registration law, the birth of any child, regardless of whether the parents are Iranian or foreign, is registered after the announcement of the event. If the child is Iranian, a birth certificate will be issued for them, and if they are foreigners, a birth certificate for foreign nationals will be issued and delivered.

III. Challenges and limitations


89. One of the most important challenges and obstacles in the implementation of the recommendations is the imposition of illegal and inhuman unilateral coercive measures against Iran, especially its extraterritorial consequences and effects. According to Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, “All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.” Unfortunately, during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the severe system of unilateral sanctions against Iran continued, even though the UN Secretary General and the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures asked the governments to halt such measures. The United States of America, contrary to the injunction of the International Court of Justice on October 3, 2018, which called for the application of humanitarian exemptions, has continued this illegal behavior, and many countries and commercial companies, due to the fear of punishment, refrain from doing international transactions even in humanitarian cases.
90. The negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, including on the acquisition and access to the country's financial resources, investment, modernization, transfer of technology and knowledge, reconstruction and provision of medical and pharmaceutical devices, equipment and supplies, especially for intractable diseases, humanitarian activities, scientific cooperation and research and access to the study opportunities and international scientific resources and international cooperation is undeniable. After visiting Iran, the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures called on international community to lift unilateral sanctions, the prevention of risk reduction policies and over-compliance in accordance with international legal norms, and the assistance of the international community and humanitarian institutions to Iran to reduce the negative effects of unilateral sanctions. Unfortunately, not only the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur have not been addressed by the governments, but also the international human rights institutions have refused to pay enough attention to this important issue. It is expected that the effects of unilateral



sanctions on the enjoyment of human rights will be seriously considered by the international community.

91. Terrorist actions and its instrumental abuse by some governments have caused innocent people to be killed every day here and there. In addition to the assassination of more than 17,000 innocent people at the beginning of the Islamic revolution by the MKO terrorist cult and the serial assassination of Iranian scientists, only during the reporting period, the cowardly and criminal assassination of the greatest defender of the rights of the peoples of the region, lieutenant colonel Qasim Soleimani, the brutal and inhuman assassination of Mr. Ismail Haniyeh, the political leader of the Hamas resistance movement, who had traveled to Tehran on the official invitation of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to participate in the inauguration ceremony of the new president of Iran, the terrorist attacks on the consular section of the Iranian embassy in Damascus and the terrorist attack against Iran's ambassador in Lebanon, continuous terrorist acts in the cities of Kerman and Sistan and Baluchistan against innocent people and the spread of terrorist acts in the West Asian region constitute constant and serious violations of international law and international human rights law. Such inhumane and cowardly crimes violated the most fundamental human right, the right to life, and had dire consequences on regional peace and security, and unfortunately created a loophole to avoid accountability and responsibility. Iran expects responsible behavior from governments and concerned international institutions, away from selective and political behavior, and is seriously concerned about terrorist acts, especially in new forms by modern technologies.

92. The West Asian region needs peace and stability more than ever. Any instability has serious consequences for the countries of the region. Since 2021, Iran has been facing a massive influx of illegal immigrants and asylum seekers, and up until now, based on a humanitarian approach, it has hosted a huge number of asylum seekers despite unilateral sanctions and limited international aid. In this regard, Iran expects responsible behavior from relevant governments and international organizations so that all human societies can live in their motherland without worry and under the shelter of peace and freedom and witness their progress and improvement.



93. Some areas related to human rights, such as humanitarian cooperation, environment, combating drug and human trafficking, etc., require effective international cooperation. The Islamic Republic of Iran, especially in recent years, has faced the phenomenon of dust storms driven by climate change. Efforts of neighboring governments to take appropriate measures and the support of related international organizations are expected. In relation to drug trafficking, which has had a huge human and material cost for Iran, the responsible behavior of the international community is expected.

