

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Social Development
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Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains steadfast in its commitments to the development framework established by the ICPD. Spurred by its national priorities and policies, Iran in collaboration with a wide range of national partners and resident UN agencies has established an inclusive and resilient development agenda to secure advances in various areas of concern, including employment, health, education, population growth, aging, urbanization, family protection, empowerment of women and girls, and protection of persons with vulnerability.

Over the past few decades, Iran has made considerable progress on health-related indicators such as reduction of maternal mortality, vaccination coverage, and births attended by skilled health personnel. The Government has recently redoubled, its efforts with remarkable success, to provide Iranians with universal health coverage.

Iran has also made major achievements in education at all levels, including women's education. In order to empower women in various areas, numerous policy measures and frameworks have been devised.

Mr. Chair,

On strategies for advancing women economic empowerment in the context of the sustainable development goals, my country has made tremendous progress, particularly in women's education, health and sanitation.

The rate for female university students has increased by 14 times over last three decades.

Female university students make up over half of the total population of university students. In academic year of 2014-2015, for instance, more than 57 percent of the PhD candidates were female. A President's decree to all ministers requests that 30 percent of all high level and managerial posts be allocated to women by 2020. There are also about 700 assistant judges, advisors and deputy prosecutor in courts and are authorized to issue judicial verdicts.

The current national development plan emphasizes on gender mainstreaming in all policies and plans of executive bodies by applying the 'gender justice' approach. One basic change has been the establishment of a Vice Presidency Office for Women and Family Affairs.

Recently, there has been a notable increase in promoting women in major managerial positions in different layers of the country. This includes three female vice-presidents and six deputy ministers as well as 46 director generals.

Having studied the Secretariat Report ESCAP/CSD/2018/1, my delegation would like to express its utter dissatisfaction with the letter and spirit in which paragraph 30 of the report is drafted. We strongly object to the manner in which the Secretariat attributed a falsely understood concept about women inheritance in a number of countries including mine. The inheritance law of Iran is derived from the Islamic jurisprudence, and needs to be respected. Based on the current applicable law of inheritance, Iranian women are entitled to inherit all forms of the husband's property. My delegation is disappointed with the fact that the Secretariat named some countries in this paragraph, not rendering the required respect for values, cultures and jurisprudence of the Member States.

I thank you.