



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Statement

By

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and other international organizations in Geneva,**

Before

Ad hoc Committee on Elaboration of Complementary Standards

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

The Islamic Republic of Iran extends its thanks and appreciation to the Chairperson and her team for the professional work and effort invested in preparing this document. The dedication and expertise demonstrated in this endeavor are commendable, and we acknowledge the significant strides made towards addressing racial discrimination and related intolerances.

My delegation notes and respects the positions of those States that have opted not to participate in the negotiations of this document. Recognizing the diverse perspectives and concerns that exist, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposes a constructive path forward. We propose that the Chairperson present this document to all States, allowing for a reasonable period during which they can review the contents and submit their comments. This inclusive approach will ensure that the



document reflects a broad consensus and addresses the varied concerns of all stakeholders.

Upon careful review of the document, the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to announce the following observations and recommendations:

1. Inclusion of Marginalized Groups: In section N.5, titled ‘Definition of the main conduct to be criminalized,’ the document adopts a broad approach to defining racial groups and victims of racial discrimination. This broad definition potentially includes marginalized groups, which, from our perspective, could complicate the implementation of the document. The Islamic Republic of Iran opposes the inclusion of such general concepts, as they may dilute the focus and effectiveness of the measures proposed. We advocate for more precise definitions to ensure the document's practical applicability and clarity.

2. Equating Belief with Religion: Section N.5, subsection E), addresses ‘Discrimination based on religion or belief’ together. This conflation appears to conflict with the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which firmly opposes equating belief with religion. Our stance is that religion and belief are distinct concepts that should not be treated synonymously. We recommend revising this section to clearly differentiate between the two, ensuring that the unique characteristics and implications of religious discrimination are appropriately addressed.

3. Addressing Gaps in ICERD Regarding Religious Discrimination: While the document acknowledges the need to address gaps in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), including those related to religion, it adopts a broader approach. This approach addresses discrimination based on religion or belief, rather than focusing specifically on insults



to Islam and Muslim sanctities. The Islamic Republic of Iran has reiterated the Factual Evaluation of contemporary forms of Islamophobia, which presented to the session in the first week. We assert that it is necessary to treat Islamophobia as an authentic and independent factor in the document, rather than merely as an aggravating factor. By doing so, the document can more effectively address the unique challenges and prejudices faced by Muslims globally.

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its appreciation for the Chairman's efforts and the collaborative spirit of all participating States. We look forward to a constructive dialogue and a fruitful outcome that reflects our collective commitment to justice and equality.

I thank you, Madam Chair.