

QUESTIONNAIRE

PART ONE:

Overview of Trends in Achieving Gender Equality and Advancement of Women

Due to the full commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure to social justice and respect for the women's rights, under the Islamic teachings, the National Committee, which represented Iran's positions and view points in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, took following coordinated initiatives to encourage both officials and public, specially women with a view to ensure implementation of Beijing Platform For Action;

* Meeting under the auspices of the then President Rafsanjani and comprising senior officials in different levels of decision-making, reviewing the most important issues raised in Beijing.

* Launching media campaign to increase the public and especially women's awareness on the Beijing Conference and its Platform For Action.

* Translating into Persian the Beijing Platform For Action and the Beijing Declaration with view to familiarizing the relevant governmental organizations, institutions, Judiciary, Legislature and Non-Governmental Organizations with the Beijing Platform of Action.

* Enhancement of the Status of the National Committee (pursuant to an order by the then president) as the main focal point for national programming on women and supervising implementation process of the Beijing Platform For Action.

* Drafting the National Plan of Action with contributions from relevant organizations, Executive, Legislature and Judiciary branches.

* Finalizing Iran's National Plan of Action on the basis of the Beijing's 12 critical areas of concern with emphasis on women's human rights, mass media and institutional mechanisms for advancement of women.

* **Obtaining the approval of the highest relevant officials on the National Plan of Action.**

* **Announcement by the Committee on Finalizing on the relevant organizations to incorporate the National Plan calling into their policies.**

Following the Introduction of the National Plan of Action, the necessity for integration of gender-perspective into different policies and programmes was felt and further promotion of women's human rights emphasized.

* **State institutions then gave priority to development of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women. Take the following as instances:**

a- **Promotion of Bureau for Women Affairs to the Center for Women Participation and the center's head became a member of the Cabinet.**

b- **Upgrading Judiciary's office for women to the general directorate and developing its branches in different provinces.**

c- **Convening the Family, Women and the Youth Commission in the Islamic consultative Assembly (Parliament)**

d- **Development of women's affairs commissions in 243 cities across the country**

e- **Establishment of women offices in most of the ministries and state organizations.**

* **The National Committee made positive efforts to promote public awareness about the important role of NGOs as the intermediary agencies between people and the government and to institutionalize this role.**

These efforts have induced an increase of more than 50 percent in the number of NGOs since the Beijing Conference. Different national and international

educational-consultative workshops were held for the representatives of the women NGOs.

- In health sector the country has taken great steps in improving women's health conditions.

For instance:

a- Population growth rate has decreased to 1.2 from 3.4 in 1995

b- Women's life expectancy at birth increased by one year

c- Maternal mortality rate has been reduced to half of its rate in 1990

d- Almost 100 percent of women in urban areas and 84 percent of women in rural areas are now covered by health services network

e- Effective measures were taken for prevention, early detection and treatment of breast, cervical and other cancers of the reproductive system

- In education and training sectors one of the priorities of Iran's National Plan of Action is to close gender gap in education system. Furthermore Note 62 of the Second Development Plan which calls for identification and enrollment of school-age children with an emphasis on girl-children was enforced. As a result 96 percent of school-age girls are covered by elementary education. Some 89 percent of them complete their primary schooling.

Greater efforts were made through different workshops, educational-consultative courses to encourage and promote education of girls at different levels as well as in technical and vocational education. Girls constituted 52 percent of university admissions in a nation-wide varsity campaign in 1998, in comparison with 47 percent in 1997 or 35 percent in previous years.

**Iran's National Plan of Action Emphasizes on
women and media and institutional mechanisms for
advancement of women .**

A- Women and Media

The mass media are powerful means of education and as an educational tools the mass media can be an instrument for educators, governmental and non-governmental institutions for the advancement of women and for development. TV especially has the greatest impact on young and masses of people, and as such, has the ability to shape values, attitudes and positive perceptions of women and improve the negative perceptions.

The media have a great potential to promote the status of women and ensure the equality between women and men by portraying women and men in a non-stereotypical, diverse and balanced manner, and by respecting the dignity and worth of human person, specially in those countries where people's attitudes such as sex-selection and discrimination against women, hinder women's active participation.

B- Institutional Mechanisms for Advancement of Women

Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of development and peace.

C- Human Rights of Women

In order to realize peace and development, there is a need to respect human rights of women. Thus promoting human rights of women is one of the main areas on which Iran's National Plan of Action emphasized.

Along with the aforementioned measures, Iran has made intensive efforts to mainstream gender-perspective in all national economic, legal, social and political policies.

Political participation, betterment of women's employment's conditions, environmental protection activities, declining gender-gap in education system, allowing access of rural and urban women to education and health care services are the areas where mainstreaming a gender perspective has been most successful.

Since 1995 attention to advancement of women has been reinforced both in

government policies and public perception. Several instances of such changes are as follow:

* In the first municipal elections, held on February 26, 1999, a total number of 1,120 7 female candidates were elected through direct voting. The figure points up the fact that public thrust on women's leadership has been boosted since even in small towns and remotest villages women were elected to the city councils.

* Increasing Women employees maternity leave from 3 to four months (up to three children)

* Approving flexible working hours of women employees (upon their request).

* Allocation of special credit to implement 268 educational projects to increase involvement of rural women in environmental protection activities.

* Establishment and development of health care services network.

* Establishment of rural midwifery centers and training 5,000 midwives to render services in rural areas

* Training 36,000 women volunteers (in basij bases across the country) on health information and employing 6,000 of them to render health information to women in communities.

There is no tangible gender gap in education system with 96 percent of school-age girls are covered by primary education.

However, in areas such as elimination of legal obstacles, poverty eradication, changing negative perceptions and patronal attitudes, closing gender gap in high level of decision-making mainstreaming a gender perspective has been least successful.

* The revision process of laws and legislation on women is a long-term complex procedure which makes modification of laws difficult.

* The fact that Iran consists different ethnic groups and subcultures impedes adoption of single cultural measures to remove or correct negative perceptions and attitudes.

Despite the fact that the number of women Member of the Parliament has increased and two women are now members of the cabinet, women still under-represent in high level policy-making and programming.

World's financial crisis with its impacts on oil prices and global decline of the prices has caused a slump in government revenues, decline of investments and recession of domestic products.

Despite government's efforts the crisis affected the families and households either directly or indirectly.

As indirect impact, increasing prices of goods and commodities lowered people's purchase power and women who burden the major responsibility for administering home affairs and children's nutrition are exposed to danger. Thus, they are now more vulnerable than before.

The crisis which also led to decline of government revenues has lowered public budget and consequently intersectoral budget which were allocated to women. The above-mentioned facts have encouraged government to take a greater role in implementation of supportive policies and poverty eradication.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a victim of unilateral coercive measures and various economic sanctions imposed by U.S. These measures and sanctions have hindered the realization of economic rights of Iranian people especially women and children who are most vulnerable groups to economic disruptions.

PART TWO:

Financial and Institutional Measures

All the budgets which are being allocated to women -centered policies are of domestic and national resources.

Every year's budget bill stipulates a specific amount for women's issues. For instance, the budget bill of 1998 had considered certain amount of credit for female-headed households, sports, education and self-employment of women.

Since the head of the Center for Women's Participation is a member of the cabinet, her presence helps budget allocation to women issues.

The Center for Women's Participation also reviews budget bills and elaborates its comments on the allocation of the budget to women's cultural, social and economic issues.

To follow up Beijing Platform for Action, the Center for Women's Participation uses two mechanisms;

1- National Committee of the Fourth World Conference on Women which was established to attract active contribution of women NGOs and governmental organizations.

2- Coordination Council of Executive bodies' Representatives which explores women issues and follow up the Beijing Platform for Action in its monthly meetings.

Women NGOs were also involved in formulation of the National Plan of Action, programming and setting targets for activities in line with the Beijing Platform For Action.

To this purpose a coordinating bureau was established in the Center for Women Affairs to coordinate NGOs cooperation in following up the Beijing Platform For Action.

PART THREE:

Women's Advancement and Equality for Women in the New Millennium

In the third millennium, as before, sustained economic growth, social development, environmental protection and social justice require involvement of women in economic and social development and their full participation of men

and women as agents and beneficiaries of people-centered sustainable development.

Widespread economic recession and structural adjustment have been responsible for setting back development goals and advancement of women. Thus in the third millennium such factors should be eased through collective measures.

Although the threat of global conflict has been reduced, wars of aggression, arm conflicts, colonial or other forms of alien domination and foreign occupation, civil wars and terrorism continue to plague many parts of the world and thus leaving women helpless.

On the threshold of the third millennium Dialogue Among Civilizations, which was initiated by President Khatami of Iran, is supposed to help diminish such plagues. The doctrine of Dialogue Among Civilizations will definitely promote mutual understanding among people of different cultures and civilizations. The theory can reduce the conflicts, help peaceful settlement of conflicts and maintain peace and security at the global, regional and local levels which is crucial for the protection of human rights of women and girl-children.

I. Women and Poverty

A- Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

- 1- Introduction of poverty eradication plan
- 2- Modification of social security law to pay the re-married widow of a dead insured after the death of her second husband
- 3- Strengthening Imam Khomeini's Relief Committee (as a community-based support system)
- 4- Lending interest-free loans to 27,000 rural women headed households to purchase production tools
- 5- Implementation and development of Zeinab Project as a special window to lend to women for agricultural purposes
- 6- Holding educational, training, apprenticeship programs for unemployed women to either enhance their employment opportunity or self-employment
- 7- Providing houses to women whose husbands are hospitalized due to kidney diseases ratification of a by-law to secure women headed households
- 8- Allocation of more than rls. 3 billion to integrate rural and female-headed households into productive employment and the economic mainstream
- 9- Considerable increasing of training courses in technical managerial agricultural extension and marketing areas in agricultural, industry, arts and handicrafts to increase income-generating opportunities for women

B- Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

- 1- Decreasing government income due to fluctuating oil prices
- 2- Lack of women in the high level of economic decision-making

C- Commitment for future actions/new initiatives

- 1- Allocation of flats to low-income women-headed households
- 2- Development of poverty eradication plan with incorporation of gender perspective
- 3- Increasing the number of women covered by social security to

II. Education and training of women

A- Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

1. Implementation of note 62 of the 2nd Five-Year Development plan on identification and enrollment of school-aged children in primary schools with an emphasis on girl children

2. Establishment and development of boarding schools in rural and nomadic areas to promote intermediary education (some 136 of 480 total of such schools are dedicated for girls .
3. Reduction of female illiteracy rate to half of its rate in 1990 (the Islamic Republic of Iran was awarded by UNESCO for its achievements in literacy campaign.)
4. Establishment and development of evening schools for young mothers to allow them access to formal education
5. Increasing the number of technical and vocational schools dedicated for girls (.....)
6. Elimination of gender disparities in access to all areas of education like agricultural engineering
7. Closing gender gap in education of science, mathematics and applied sciences
8. Allowing access of refugee women of little or no education with appropriate level of education
9. Increasing to 71 percent women's literacy rate from 61.8 percent ten years ago
10. Holding technical, vocational courses for disadvantage women
11. Providing non-formal education for rural women through literacy campaign movement
12. Promoting women's life skills, scientific knowledge on health and reproductive health through special TV programs
13. Commissioning a committee to elaborate recommendations and develop curricula, textbooks and teaching aids free of gender-based stereotypes for all level of education
14. Inauguration of family studies course in university
15. Inauguration of a major on women' studies in master level
16. Increasing admission of girls to the universities from 47 percent to 52 percent in 1998
17. Increasing the number of girls studying in technical and vocational training courses (girls constitutes 60 percent of total number of students studying in the vocational and training schools, centers and informal vocational and training courses)
18. Inclusion of a subject on women's rights in university courses to improve legal literacy of women
19. Holding different workshops, training courses and seminars on women's role in industry and science
20. Developing information programs with respect for multilingualism through local radio and TV.
21. Promotion of Farsi language courses in areas whose language differs (half of the participants in Farsi classes are women)
22. Allocation of a portion n public expenditure (annual budget) to women's sports activities

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

1. Unwillingness of certain parents toward vocational and technical training of the girls

C-Commitment to future actions/new initiatives

1. Modification of the existing educational and training methodologies to promote sociability of girl-child
2. Promotion of women specialists in high level of educational decision-making

3. Removal of gender stereotyped images from the text books and curricula

III. Women and Health

A. Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

1. Establishment and development of country's health network system which covers 84 percent of rural population and 100 percent of urban population providing reproductive health care services inter alia.
2. Decentralization of health services and their extension to rural and the remotest areas, inter alia, through rural health houses
3. Encouraging men through mass media, TV in particular, to share equally in child care and household work
4. Enforcement of labor law which requires accessible recreational and sports facilities to workers and employees, male or female, and their families too
5. Providing low-cost genetic counseling to the would-be spouses
6. Launching campaign through media and video clips to inform women and girls on addiction and substance abuse
7. Launching media campaign to address the prevention, early detection and treatment of breast, cervical and other cancers of the reproductive system
8. Organizing monthly health contest and awarding the winners with an aim to promote health awareness of women
9. Enactment of a legislation to increase maternity leave from three to four months up to three children and providing lactating women with an hour leave daily to breast-feed their children and calling employers to establish nursing units
10. Holding AIDS and other STD awareness programs country-wide and vulnerable areas in particular
11. Promotion of contraceptive methods involving men, for instance vasectomy
12. Launching organized efforts through labor health houses to encourage men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviors
13. Successful implementation of family planning programs which has led to decrease of population growth rate from 2.7 to 1.5 at present
14. Appointment of women advisors in medical universities to increase women in leadership position in the health professions
15. Holding different courses on development journalism with an emphasis on population and family planning in cooperation with UNFPA
16. Reduction of maternal mortality by 50 percent of the rate in 1990
17. Introduction of national food security plan with emphasis on vulnerable groups
18. Establishment of female sports clubs in less-developed regions
19. Supporting involvement of women NGOs active in health program to improve reproductive health awareness of women and girls

20. Holding workshops to address girls' puberty problems and ensure facilitation of a healthful transition from childhood to adulthood
21. Vaccination of girls in schools against German measles
22. Recognition of AIDS treatment and compilation of national strategy for anti-AIDS campaign
23. Inclusion of a family planning subject in different university courses

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons

1. Demographic features: some 51 percent of the country's population are under 19
2. Privatization policy in health and medical sectors prevents early detection of diseases

C-Commitment to further actions/new initiative

1. Paying due attention to social security system to promote it to cover more women
2. Taking proper measures to further encourage to share equally in their reproductive behavior
3. Further promotion and country-wide development of women community-based NGOs involved in health care activities

IV. Violence against women

A- Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

1. Enactment of a legislation to recruit female police force
2. Modification of the rules for employment of the law enforcement forces to allow employment of women forces for campaign against women offenders
3. Providing consultation and carrying researches on perpetrators of violence to prevent the recurrence of such violence
4. Offering free legal consultation to women victims of violence in judiciary
5. Designating a day of the annual women's week as day for defending women against home violence
6. Condemnation of violence against women by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and other religious and political figures
7. Launching media campaign to denounce violence against women within either family or society
8. Suppressing customs and traditions which invokes violence against women through mass media
9. Effective enforcement of law against the perpetrators of practices and acts of violence against women
10. Setting up a committee for elimination of violence against women in the Center for Participation of Women

11. Opening a special branch for women victims of violence within the non-governmental organization for Defending Victims of Violence and establishment of a safe shelter for women victims of violence
12. Introduction of a plan for prevention of wife prosecution

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

1. Lack of proper official records on acts of violence perpetrated against women
2. Sovereignty of the patronal attitude in the society
3. Lack of appropriate national mechanisms for women victims of violence to report the cases of violence

C-Commitment to further actions/new initiative

1. Further establishing and development of safe shelters
2. Developing counseling centers
3. Effective enforcement of penal and civil law

V. Women and armed conflict

A. Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

1. Ratification of convention on banning production and stockpiling chemical weapons
2. Signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
3. Establishment of the Martyr Foundation to render financial, psychological, consultative, legal, educational and housing facilities to martyr's families
4. Holding different seminars to honor and highlight women's role in sacred defense (1980-88 Iraqi war against Iran)
5. Providing women with disabilities from war with different types of support by the Mostazafan va Janbazan Foundation (foundation for disabled war veterans and the deprived)
6. Providing displaced and women refugees with shelter, means of subsistence, educational and training facilities
7. Considering special quota to martyrs' families including their widows in university entrance examination
8. Establishment of 33 refugee camps where refugees specially women receive family planning services, AIDS-preventing programs, vaccination against infectious diseases and specially TB
9. Training women refugee volunteers to follow up implementation of health programs
10. Considering a post of advisor in Defense Ministry for women affairs and appointment of a women to this post
10. Supporting Afghan Women NGOs

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

1. Lack of sufficient financial support by the international community
2. Geopolitical status of Iran, which is located in a trouble-some region, leads to continuous influx of refugees
3. Refugees presence caused further destruction of environment
4. Refugees threatens social security

C-Commitment to further actions/new initiative

1. Broadening country's cooperation with international organizations
2. Providing the grounds for military and self-defense of women
3. Promotion of women presence in defensive issues

VI. Women and the economy

A- Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

1. Incorporation of gender perspective into the country's 3rd Five-Year Development Plan
2. Enforcement of a legislation on coordinated payment system
3. Modification of Labor Law to accept part time work of women
4. Allocation of more than three billion rials for home employment programs to integrate rural and female-headed households into productive employment and the economic mainstream
5. Strengthening Inam Khomcini Relief Committee (as a community-based support system) to help women in poverty to withstand economic hardship
6. Lending interest-free loans to 27,000 rural disadvantaged women and women-headed households
7. Allocation of five billion rials credit to productive and agricultural cooperatives
8. Exemption of those cooperatives 70 percent of whose shareholders are women
9. Establishment of rural women's cottage industries
10. Implementation and development of Zeinab (A.S.) Project as a special window to lend to women for agricultural purposes
11. Establishment and development of cooperatives of women carpet weavers
12. Exchange of rural visits between rural women of Iran and those of China, Pakistan,... within the framework of south-south cooperation to providing them with the opportunity to learn about each country's economic and social conditions
13. Holding seminars and workshops to make rural women familiar with their role in sustainable development
14. Holding educational-consultative workshops

15. Organizing exhibitions of women's handicraft industries and providing women with marketing opportunity on the sidelines of the exhibitions
16. Providing disabled women with training courses to improve self-employment enabling them to find a means of subsistence
17. Promotion of equal right of women to be members of trade unions and professional and social organizations

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

1. Decrease of government overall income due to the decline of oil prices in the world market
2. Women's absence in high level of economic decision making
3. Imposing unilateral economic sanctions against Iran
4. Distance between consumers and producers reduced women's production cooperatives
5. Microcredits offered to rural women have increased their self-confidence and self reliance in women.

C-Commitment to further actions/new initiative

1. Providing women with different means of production
2. Bolstering women's economic organizations both in cities and villages

VII. Women in power and decision making

A- Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

1. Development of mechanisms and training courses to encourage women to participate in the electoral process, political activities and other decision-making areas
2. Appointment of a woman as vice-president, head of the Environmental Protection Organization and a member of the cabinet
3. Appointment of a woman as a presidential advisor and here membership at the cabinet
4. Appointment of a woman as presidential advisor in political affairs
5. Appointment of a woman as presidential advisor in charge of press affairs
6. Appointments of women as deputy health minister, deputy culture and Islamic guidance minister, Interior ministry's director general for administration department, district mayor, director general of industries ministry's administration department, director general of revenues and expenses in country's retirement organization
7. Appointment of women as deputy director general in justice department
8. Appointment of a woman to head a branch of state punishment organization
9. Appointment of women judges

10. Encouraging women's participation in the newly-emerged political parties of Kargozaran (those serving in the course of construction) and Mosharekat (Islamic Iran's participation front)
11. Providing career-development programs and ensuring women's equal access to managerial, technical and leadership training including on-the-job training
12. Holding more than 200 seminars country-wide to promote women awareness about the municipal elections held in February 1999
13. Providing special facilities to women candidates by media to run for the municipal elections
14. Election of 300 women for the membership in the city councils (women represents in almost all city councils across the country)
15. Election of more women MPs (the number of women MPs has increased from 9 to 14 MPs)
16. Offering training courses in leadership and decision-making, public speaking and self-assertion

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

1. Wherever women dare to be nominated the society will accept their roles
2. Lower access of women to financial resources impedes them from running for the elections
3. Limited nomination of women by the political parties contributes lack of more women candidates

C-Commitment to further actions/new initiative

1. Encouraging political parties and NGOs to nominate more women candidates
2. Promotion of women's self-confidence through media campaign, workshops and seminars
3. Further development of career-development programs including managerial, technical and leadership training courses through on-the-job training inter alia workshops and seminars

VIII. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

A. Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

a. Executive Branch

1. Appointment of a woman as vice-president, head of the environment protection organization and member of the cabinet
2. Upgrading former women bureau to the Center for Women Participation and membership of its head in the cabinet and presidential advisor in charge of women affairs

3. Establishment of a headquarters on women affairs in the education ministry
4. Formation of women advisory post in the Defense Ministry
5. Development of governmental women cooperatives under the ministry of cooperative
6. Establishment of research centers to study women's issues under the supervision of the executive branch
7. Establishment of a bureau for women in the culture and Islamic Relations Organizations
8. Promotion of an active policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the 3rd Development Plan

B. Legislature

2. Formation of a special family, women and youth in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament) to promote gender perspective in legislation and policies
3. Establishment of a special office for women affairs in the Parliament

C. Judiciary

3. Upgrading women affairs offices in Judiciary to a directorate general
4. Formation of special judicial family center with 334 branches

D. Institutions under the supervision of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution

4. Establishment of a special committee in the expediency council

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

1. Parallel institutions imposing duplication of works
2. Lack of sufficient budget
3. Lack of a proper reporting system to take information relevant to women issues

C-Commitment to further actions/new initiative

1. Further promotion of governmental mechanism for advancement of women.

IX. Human rights of women

A. Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

1. Providing free legal consultation and promoting legal literacy by the judiciary on women's rights
2. Review national laws including legal practices in the area of family, civil, penal and labor laws to remove gender bias in the Administration of Justice
1. Providing women with the opportunity to be judges, advocates or other officers
2. Inclusion of a subject on women's rights in university courses
3. Development of women offices in Judiciary to promote legal literacy and providing women with legal consultation and also carrying researches on human rights of women
4. Establishment of special family courts
5. Implementation of family reconciliation plan by the Welfare Organization and Justice Department.
6. Adjustment of marriage portion with the inflation rate in case of divorce
7. Revision of the law on children's guardianship
8. Holding seminars on revision of civil law by a women NGO
9. Dealing with women's rights within the framework of a seminar on regional arrangement of human rights
10. Holding a seminar on future perspective of Iranian women
11. Commissioning a special committee to study probability of Iran's adherence to the Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
12. Holding different seminars and workshops on women's rights by NGOs
13. Establishment of the Islamic Human Rights Commission one of whose departments is dedicated to deal with women's rights
14. Publication of legal magazines specialized on women's rights

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

1. Improper awareness of women about their legal rights
2. Lack of strong mechanisms for promoting human rights of women
3. Improper enforcement of laws

C-Commitment to further actions/new initiative

1. Accession to CEDAW
2. Strengthening relevant women NGOs
3. Review and modify, if necessary, the laws

X. Women and the media

A- Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

1. Appointment of a woman as presidential advisor in charge of press affairs
2. Development of a special women affairs office in the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) to promote public awareness on women status and change continued projection of negative and degrading images of women in media communications especially T.V
3. Development of women's education, training and employment to promote women's equal access to all areas and levels of the media
4. Promotion of women's participation in the media including management, programming and research
5. Increasing the number of programs for and by women to address women's needs and concerns
6. Increasing the number of women working as journalist, reporter, editor, editor-in-chief, deputy editor-in-chief and managing directors
7. Promotion of publications for women and run by women
8. Holding seminars on women's role in mass media
9. Increasing number of female members of the press guild
10. Formation of Association of Women Journalists
11. Establishment of the Association of Women and Media
12. Setting up a task-force on women and family nation wide TV network I
13. Publication of special dailies and periodicals on women

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

1. Obscure of Islamic moral values in media has contributed in increasing participation of women in media activities
2. Under-representation of women in high level decision-making
3. Insufficiency of the specialized training courses for women

C-Commitment to further actions/new initiative

1. Taking steps to introduce successful women through media
2. Promoting public belief specially among women about the necessity for women to undertake ir appropriate role in the development of the country through media

XI. Women and Environment

A- Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

1. Appointment of a women as vice-president and head of the Environmental Protection organization (EPO) and member of the cabinet
2. Introduction of national consumption pattern
3. Creation of a special department in EPO for training and programming with an aim to promote rural women's contribution to environmental protection activities
4. Allocation of necessary credit to implement 268 training projects on natural resources and rural women
5. Holding training workshop on safety of women working with chemical substances (to reduce risks to women from identified environmental hazards at workshop)
6. Holding workshops on women participation in environmental protection with an aim to increase proportion of women in presenting natural resources
7. Organizing a seminar on women's key role in lessening hazards of earthquakes
8. Organizing a seminar on women and environment to introduce environmental concerns to women
9. Implementation of "national resources and rural women" project to increase their environmental awareness
10. Supporting women environmental NGOs
11. Implementation of Baghaa (survival) project to monitor health condition of carpet weavers, 70 percent of whom are women, and to improve their awareness on hazards of their workplace
12. Holding the first festival on environmental life skills in schools with an emphasis on participation of girls

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

1. The more women are trained and involved in environmental issues more natural resources are preserved

C-Commitment to further actions/new initiative

1. Encouraging establishment of more women NGOs active in environmental issues
2. Establishing appropriate mechanisms to utilize women potentials to reduce environmental damages

XII. Girl-child

A. Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)

1. Commissioning a special committee to address problems of girl-children in the Center for Women Participation
2. Vaccination of girls in schools
3. Promotion of girl-child awareness on puberty process through the network of health teachers
4. Addressing adolescence problems of girl-child through different workshops
5. Encouraging and supporting NGOs and community-based organizations to change negative attitudes and practices toward girl-children
6. Encouraging masses, according to Islamic teachings, to have affectionate behavior towards girl-children
7. Launching 8-hour special nation-wide training courses for parents on family issues with an emphasis on girl-children through Association of Parents and Teachers
8. Holding a seminar on street-children with an emphasis on girl-children and special workshop on girl-child including prevention of child prosecution, girl-children's health
9. Carrying nationwide researches on girl-child situation both in rural and urban areas and study to find reasons behind girl's drop-out of education system
10. Publication of a special monthly dealing with under-18 girl's issues
11. Establishment of 663 recreational and sports clubs for rural girl-child by the Ministry of Agriculture
12. Establishment of national association for defending children's rights by a women lawyer
13. Enactment of a legislation to establish a general directorate for girls' physical training

B-Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

There is no specific obstacles in this regard.

C-Commitment to further actions/new initiative

1. Designing suitable mechanisms especially through schools for recording probable cases of violence against girl-children
2. Review civil law to promote further protection of girl-child's rights
3. Removal of gender stereotyped images in textbooks ad curricula
4. Further expansion of sports facilities for girl-children
5. Establishment of safe shelters for girl-children victims of violence

ANNEX II

Population and Fertility

- * Population size : 60,055,488
- * Population aged 0-4 : 6,163,024
- 0-14 : 23,725,545
- 5-49: 29,423,654
- 60+ : 3,978,127

- * Population by urban distribution : 36,817,789
- * Population by rural distribution : 23,237,699
- * Population growth rate : 1.5
- * Total fertility rate : 3.1

Mortality

- * Life expectancy at birth : 68.5
- * Infant mortality rate : 16 in 1,000
- * Under-five mortality rate : 33 in 1,000
- * Maternal mortality rate : 37.4 in 100,000

Health

- * Population with access to health services : 85 %

Reproductive health

- * Contraceptive prevalence rate : 55.4 %
- * Percent of births attended by trained health personnel : 86 %
- * HIV prevalence : 971 cases

Gender equality in education

- * Ratio of literate females to males at ages 15-24 : 96 %

Economic activity

- * Unemployment ratio : 9.1
- * Employment-population ratio : 90.9

- * Percent of labor force engaged in agriculture : 23.04%
- * Percent of labor force engaged in industry : 30.7%
- * Percent of labor force engaged in services : 44.5%
- * Percent of labor force engaged in unspecified works : 1.76%
- * Percent of labor force by employment status :
 - ⊗ Percent of labor force engaged in private sector: 67.21%
 - ⊗ Percent of labor force engaged in public sector: 29.22%
 - ⊗ Percent of labor force engaged in cooperatives: 0.39%
 - ⊗ Percent of labor force engaged in unspecified sector: 3.18%
 - ⊗ Percent of children aged 10-14 who are working : 3%

Economy

- * GNP per capita : Rls. 4,566,400
- * GDP per capita
(Market price): Rls. 280,731.4 billion
(Factor price): Rls. 280,386.4 billion

Income and poverty

- * Rural household income per capita : Rls. 5,865,027
- * Urban household income per capita: Rls. 9,879,359
- * Proportion of children under age five underweight : 15.7

Education

- adult literacy rate : 79.5
- * Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds :92.86
- * Net primary enrollment ratio : 119.2
- * Percent reaching grade 5/completion of grade 4: 89.2

Housing and environment

- * Floor area per person : 11 sq.m
- * Number of persons per room : 1.4
- * Percent of population with access to adequate sanitation: 95%
- * Percent of population with access to safe drinking water: 95%
- * Percent of population with access to electricity: 95.3%