

Interventions by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
On 19 Focus Areas as clustered by the Co-chairs
At the 10th Session of the OWG
Cluster Eight: Peaceful and Non-violent Societies, Rule of Law and Capable Societies

(31 March to 4 April 2014)

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Cluster Eight: Peaceful and Non-violent Societies, Rule of Law and Capable Societies

As usual, I would also like raise a few points in my national capacity as following:

- There is no doubt about how important the issues of peaceful societies, rule of law and capable societies are for any kind of development, and my delegation’s intervention under this cluster does not mean that they are not important for us, but we believe that they should be dealt with in a proper and specified manner under other focus areas, or at the proper place and by proper bodies with sufficient mandates.
- At this stage, I would also like to remind that the Non-Aligned Movement made an Intervention in the meeting of February 7th, elements of which are not captured sufficiently in this focus area;
- If we take an overall look at the targets mentioned under this focus area, and if they are to be kept as general as they are now, one might get that they, in one way or another, not only encroach the mandates of different UN bodies, but also go beyond the mandate of this group as to have a balance approach on the three pillars of sustainable development; to my delegation, in order to have each goal better defined under a developmental theme, it should become as cross-cutting concrete proposals under each other focus areas;
- Additionally, it is interesting that out of 25 targets mentioned under this cluster, only two or three namely “rule of law at all levels” and “reducing

illicit arms transfer and trafficking” are referring to aspects beyond national level, and the rests are focusing on national level, which full adherence and respect to the purpose and principles of the UN Charter, as well as the Rio principles especially CBDR, should be strongly taken on board;

- Another point is that a lot of work has been done at the multilateral and civil society levels on how to monitor and evaluate the implementation of issues under this cluster. However, there are certain substantive and procedural difficulties in how to capture them here in the UN, as a universal inter-governmental body, what are internationally agreed methodologies and frameworks to begin, to measure, to monitor and to evaluate them with?
- Finally, references to “public access to publicly owned information”, “inclusive and participatory decision-making”, “strengthening local governments” and “rule of law at all levels which we believe the proper reference would be “at national and international levels”” should be qualified in the sustainable development context under every focus areas, otherwise they are general and vague enough as to be construed as transgression to sovereign rights of countries, and to be rejected there and then.

I Thank You Mr. Co-Chair.

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