

Position Paper for the General Assembly Second Committee

The topics under discussion for the General Assembly Second Committee are: Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries; and Ensuing Access to Affordable, Sustainable, and Reliable Energy for All. Iran looks forward to engaging in discussion with all Member States regarding these issues in order to form meaningful and impactful multilateral solutions.

I. Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries

Iran is in favor of uniquely structured and impactful programs for middle-income countries (MICs) in order to foster healthy global economic development and implement the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. There are currently over 100 countries that are classified as MICs, including Iran. As an MIC, Iran is in the position to both receive and provide international financial assistance. The latter has become difficult, however, because of sanctions imposed by the UN, US, and EU. Iran's economy had barely begun to recover when the U.S. pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and reimposed its sanctions. These political actions have had economic repercussions. Similarly, Venezuela's economic crisis cannot be discussed without looking onto the political situation and foreign interaction. The U.S. pressured investors and bankers to avoid the current administration. Instead of tactics such as these, efforts must be made by the international community to negotiate with governments such as Venezuela and the entities that affect the economy in order to effectively address the problem. Iran urges Member States to examine the political and social issues plaguing MICs, establish their direct impact on the country's economy, and generate solutions that will lead to progress on all fronts. Iran does, however, stand behind the United States' aid totaling \$3,350,327 for the removal and destruction of nuclear-grade weapons to which civilians have or might have access. Aid that improves relations through compromise is essential. It ensures an individualized approach to each country while mitigating what both countries would consider prominent issues. Iran also acknowledges the danger of the "middle income trap." Iran has a hand in all three industry sectors: primary (e.g., oil, mining), secondary (e.g., automotive, construction), and tertiary (e.g., banking, tourism). To ensure that other countries do not fall into the "trap," Member States able must assist countries in the area of the industry that is lacking. Doing so will promote progress and allow that country to compete in the global economy.

II. Ensuing Access to Affordable, Sustainable, and Reliable Energy for All

The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to support past United Nation resolutions and treaties on expanding the use of and access to sustainable energy, and removing the barriers that nations face in bringing energy to their citizens, such as: The Kyoto Protocol, The Promotion of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (A/RES/67/215), and The Paris Agreement. We have demonstrated support for enabling access to renewable energy through domestic actions by increasing the amount of energy produced through solar and wind power, by exploring other sustainable options such as geothermal power, and by

opening to foreign investment in the energy sector. Through these efforts, we are now projected to utilize 1100 MW of renewable energy by this March and will continue to strive to move more of the nation's power consumption to sustainable sources. It is this dedication to improving access to sustainable energy for both the Islamic Republic of Iran and for all sovereign nations that we must again call for our fellow member nations to punish the United States for their despicable trade sanctions that are preventing us from improving energy access both domestically and from facilitating the trade of necessary technology to improve access in other nations. These sanctions not only make it difficult for Iran to improve its own infrastructure, but also add yet another barrier for the developing nations that wish to trade with Iran to overcome. Such sanctions that blatantly prevent sovereign nations from improving the lives of their own citizens, and from collaborating with other nations through trade stand in contrast with Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations which calls for the United Nations to promote "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development" and cannot be allowed to continue if the goals of this committee are to be met. The United States' previous decision to ignore the United Nations' stance on these sanctions by continuing to impede the trade of Iran demonstrates that the United States is not committed to the goal of bringing reliable energy to all and are at odds with the values of this committee.