



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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**Consideration of reports submitted by
parties to the Convention under article 35**

List of issues in relation to the initial report of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Addendum

Replies of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the list of issues^{*}, ^{}**

[Date received: 3 January 2017]

^{*} The present document is being issued without formal editing.
^{**} Annexes can be consulted in the files of the Secretariat.

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A. Purpose and General obligations (Art. 1-4)

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 1 of the list of issues (CRPD/C/IRN/Q/1)

1. The laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran do not conflict with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). According to Article 9 of the Civil Code, the treaties which were acceded in accordance with the constitution are considered as domestic law. However, invoking domestic laws is more pervasive. Although the judges could invoke provisions of international conventions, they tend to judge according to domestic laws and analyze them. Invoking the provisions of international legal documents is not ordinary yet. Therefore, the Judiciary has started to train and acquaint its officers with the obligations arising from treaties under the International Convention to encourage them to invoke the provisions of international conventions along with the existing domestic law.

2. Also, in accordance with Article 66 of the Code of Criminal Court, adopted in 2013, NGOs whose statute is defined on the protection of children and adolescents, women, persons with physical or mental disabilities, protection of environment, natural resources, cultural heritage, public health and protection of citizenship rights, may file/s charge against anybody for crimes committed in the above-mentioned fields and, in all stages of the proceedings and further participate and adduce evidence and object to the judgments of judicial authorities.

3. Note 1 — If a crime is committed against a specific victim, his/her assent is essential to be acquired, under this Article. If the victim is a child, insane or an idiot in financial crimes, consent of the parent or legal guardian should be obtained. However, if the parent or legal guardians commit a crime themselves, the mentioned organizations will take the necessary measures by obtaining the consent of the Attorney General or temporary appointed guardian.

4. Note 2 — Justice Officers and the judicial authorities are obliged to inform victims of offenses of the subject matter about the assistance of the relevant non-governmental organizations.

5. Note 3 — Names of NGOs which may enforce this Article, is prepared in the first quarter of each year, by the Minister of Justice in cooperation with Interior Minister and approved by the Head of the Judiciary.

6. Endeavors by Members of the Parliament for lifting restrictions of candidacy of blinds in Parliament elections stands as an example action taken to invoke the provisions of the Convention.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 2 of the list of issues

7. Acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has not been taken into consideration yet. However, it could be taken into consideration in the future.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 3 of the list of issues

8. According to Article 2 of the 1969 Vienna Convention, States may issue a unilateral statement under any name or by any means at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance or accession to a treaty through which they can express their intention toward excluding or modifying the legal effects of certain provisions of the Treaty regarding themselves.

9. The Islamic Republic of Iran is established on the basis of the votes of the nation and Islamic criteria, and according to its Constitution, all laws must be based on Islamic

criteria. "This principle applies absolutely and generally to all Articles of the Constitution as well as to all other laws and regulations" (Principle 4 of the Constitution). According to Principle 125 of the Constitution, President or his legal representative has the authority to sign all international treaties after obtaining the approval of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (the parliament). Determining its compatibility with the Constitution and the Islamic criteria rests with the Guardian Council (Principle 96 of the Constitution). Therefore, due to the necessity of basing all laws and approvals of the Islamic Consultative Assembly on the Islamic criteria and principles of the Constitution, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran shall not accept commitments contrary to the Islamic principles and its domestic laws, when ratifying international treaties. On this basis, the Islamic Republic of Iran, when approving the International Treaty on the Right of People with Disabilities on December 3, 2008, considered it enforceable as long as there would be no contradiction between the Treaty's provisions and Iran's current legal standards.

10. Since the reservation abides by the country's Constitution, it shall remain in force, as long as the law stands.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 4 of the list of issues

11. To align with the Comprehensive Legislation Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Iranian Government and NGOs have tabled a bill to the Parliament on reform of the Comprehensive Legislation on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

12. In the amendment, a council, referred to as "the Supreme Council for Persons with Disabilities" is stipulated, whose role is to monitor performance of all organizations, including the State Welfare Organization, to revive the rights of people with disabilities.

13. Also, the Ratification No. 77303, dated September 6, 2015 was communicated by the Council of Ministers to all executive organizations where the Coordinating Council of Persons with Disabilities, with the participation of representatives of disabled persons, have been defined.

14. At the highest level of governmental management, the State General Inspectorate, independent from the executive power, is supervising the proper enforcement of law and is responsible for monitoring performance of the Welfare Organization.

15. Moreover, at the Judiciary level, the Administrative Justice Court supervises the performance of the executive organizations as an upstream institution.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 5 of the list of issues

16. NGOs of disabled people are active in all decision makings related to persons with disabilities in the Welfare Organization. For instance, in the Department of Rehabilitation Affairs of the Welfare Organization, an Advisory Council is established which is membered by representatives of NGOs of persons with disabilities. By providing performance documents, NGO's of disabled people may benefit from financial support of the organization.

17. Participation of disabled people associations in holding training programs, implementation of empowerment programs, collaboration in the implementation of community-based rehabilitation across the country and joint holding of various occasions, related to the disabled, are examples of the support provided to national associations of persons with disabilities and utilization of their capacity.

18. Also, the National Center for Associations of Persons with Disabilities, which has been established with free election as the representative of the associations of the whole country, plays the role of a connection between the Welfare Organization and the non-

governmental organizations active in the disabled affairs for the codification of policies, reformation of laws, allocation of resources and etc.

19. The network of associations of the blind and the visually impaired, namely “Chavosh” was also founded with the support and approval of the Ministry of Interior and, as a representative association of the target group, was introduced to receive expert advice and national decision makings.

20. Additionally, in order to have more interaction with different groups, the Martyrs and Veterans Affairs Foundation, attempted to form different groups based on the type of injury and disability, including veterans with spinal cord injury, two blind eyes, chemical injuries and etc, so that they can solve the majority of their problems through the advice they provide to the Foundation’s authorities on adaptation required to apply to regulations, budgets and equipment purchase policies.

21. Accordingly, a special center to support non-governmental organizations of war-disabled veterans was designed and deployed in the organizational structure of the Foundation.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 6 of the list of issues

22. According to Paragraph 9 of Principle 3 of the State Constitution, discrimination against any human being is forbidden. There are various ways to file a complaint and claim for damages in the event of any kind of inhumane treatment. Various mechanisms are applied to monitor performance of public employees and judges, as follows:

23. According to Paragraph 7 of Article 8 of the Law on Handling Administrative Violations of 1993, “discrimination or prejudice or non-administrative relations toward individuals in the implementation of laws” will be subject to legal action toward administrative staff of each state organizations and departments. Accordingly, all provisions of the above mentioned law shall apply to all persons with disabilities against any discrimination or prejudice.

24. In criminal cases, according to Article 14 of the new Criminal Procedure code (approved in 2015), the plaintiffs may demand for compensation of all material and moral damages as well as realistic interests caused by the crime.

25. Article 38 of the aforementioned law states: law enforcers are required to inform plaintiffs of the right to request for compensation and benefit from the available consultation services and other legal services.

26. In civil subject matters, according to Civil Liability Law (1960), compensation may be received for all material, moral and physical injuries.

27. For instance, Article 1 of the above-mentioned law states: “anyone who deliberately or carelessly and without legal authorization harms someone’s life, health, property, freedom, dignity, business reputation or any other rights which are provided to individuals by law, he/she is responsible to compensate the loss.”

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 7 of the list of issues

28. Individuals belonging to ethnic and religious minorities can have political participation at different levels of social and public policies and programs. Presence of religious minorities in the Islamic Consultative Assembly stands as an evidence. Therefore, there is no obstacle for the political participation of persons with disabilities from ethnic, racial and religious groups, according to law.

29. Moreover, Persons with disabilities belonging to Afghan and Iraqi refugee groups living in Iran enjoy the State Welfare Organization services.

30. In various provinces, associations of disabled persons are acting in the form of different ethnic groups.

31. In general, the Ministry of Health of the Islamic Republic of Iran does not question patients on their sexual orientation while offering its services. Medical services are provided regardless of sexual orientation.

32. In Paragraph B of the mentioned question, reference is made to trans sexual people. It is noteworthy that in this regard, volunteer patients, upon confirmation by the forensic are introduced to the relevant centers affiliated to the Ministry of Health. Those centers provide patients with psychological consultations and help them adapt with their current condition or as a final decision, help them in changing their gender identity. This process is carried out under the same protocol and includes persons with disabilities.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 8 of the list of issues

33. Introduction of the law on reducing working hours for women employees with special conditions, in 2016:

- This law was prepared by the Office of the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs and submitted to the Islamic Consultative Assembly in the form of a bill which was further approved by the Assembly. Of the Law was meant to support participation of persons with disabilities in the economic life and for securing their employment, as well as providing supportive and leniency policy for those people.
- According to this law, working hours for women employees with severe disabilities, in case of their request, has changed to 36 hours instead of 44 hours per week, with the same salaries and benefits.
- Also, this law, through a community-based approach, allows women employees with disabled husbands or children, to request to reduce their working hours from 44 hours to 36 hours per week and the employer is legally required to accept their request and pay them the same salary and benefits as for 44 hours of work per week.
- Also, implementation of the law in non-governmental sector has been subject to the agreement of the employers and thus to encourage them to accept women applicants, the Government shall provide those employers with leniency policy and part of the employers' insurance contributions will be paid by the state or they will benefit from stepped discounts.

34. To support women with disabilities, they can take advantage of early retirement with 6 years of experience leniency, exemption of one of their boys from the military service and, in accordance with Article 6 of the Law on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, reduced working hours and priority in benefiting from other services; the law on Retirement of the disabled of the Islamic Revolution, enacted on 30-11-1988 provides for retirement of disabled veterans of the Revolution, disabled veterans of the imposed war, ordinary disabled persons and employees working in hard and hazardous jobs.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 9 of the list of issues

35. In accordance with Article 13 of the Law on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted on 5-5-2004 and Article 66 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act of 2013 and the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, disabled people who suffered from molestation, violence and abuse can defend their rights in court by supports they receive from the State Welfare Organization in providing a legal lawyer for them.

36. In the Welfare Organization, there are social emergency units for intervention in Crises called “Emergency” with the hot line No. 123 and also there are active counseling centers which provide crisis intervention services through telephone and in-person for all people, especially women with disabilities who are exposed to abuse and violence.

- Drafting the comprehensive bill for securing women against violence

37. In the issue of access to justice for women victims of violence, in particular the judicial justice, as well as women with disabilities who were victims of violence, the Office of the Vice -President for Women and Family Affairs has put drafting the bill on the agenda and this bill is now going through the final stages. Of the provisions in the bill, particular attention could be made to the following:

- Concept of violence and recognition of its different forms, including physical, sexual, psychological, economic, customs and traditions contrary to health (such as early and forced marriages) and etc.
- Drafting the mandate description for administrative organizations which are responsible for fighting against violence
- Taking into account the supportive, preventive and civil measures in the combat process against violence
- Criminalizing particular instances of domestic violence
- Introduction of particular items as Criminal Procedure Code in the subject of coping with violence against women
- Planning for achieving the objectives of sustainable development of 2030 at the Secretariat of the National Committee on the Sustainable Development in the Environment Protection Organization

38. The Vice President for Women and Family Affairs is appointed by this Committee as the main custodian of the realization of the fifth plan goals and it was decided that the Deputy, in addition to the formation of specialized committees for determining necessary criteria for the realization of the fifth plan goals, utilize the cooperation and coordination of other executive and judicial organizations. Among the small targets of this goal is the protection of women, including women with disabilities against violence.

- Prediction of severe punishment for benefit of victims with disabilities

39. The Judiciary is preparing a reprimand bill and under this bill, it is anticipated that in the event that the crime victims have disabilities, the criminal penalties will increase.

- Signing a Memorandum between the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs with the Central Bar Association

40. The Memorandum includes topics such as: benefiting women from free legal advice, in particular on claims arising from acts of violence, such as rape, domestic violence, honor crimes, acid attacks, sexual harassment in the workplace and women with gender identity disorder and bisexuals.

- Translating and editing the book “Handbook for National Action Plans on Violence against Women”, published by the United Nations entity for gender equality and women empowerment (UN women) and “Secretary General’s endeavor to end violence against women” on 2012 from English to Persian by the Office of the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, for exploitation in developing the required programs in this area.

41. Currently, Hurt, Insulted, threatened with Harm and Screamed (HITS) scale is implemented in the new system of primary health care for the initial screening of domestic

violence among married women of over 15 years of age in addition to native tools to identify cases of abuse of children and adolescents. This screening is public and persons with disabilities will also be included. It is worth mentioning that the additional screening and social- psychological interventions are implemented by the center's psychologist.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 10 of the list of issues

42. The measures carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran on disabled children can be divided into 2 fields:

A. In the field of legislation

43. A.1. Based on the comprehensive law on protecting the rights of persons with disabilities approved in 2004, all children with disabilities benefit from training and educational services, access to occupation and rehabilitation services as well as other social rights similar to other members of the society.

44. A.2. The comprehensive plan of action on the rights of children and juveniles in 2014; strategies, goals and executive plans of the national authority for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has become implementable since 2016, has paid attention to the necessity of noticing the special requirements and needs of children with disabilities in multiple places in its predicted strategies, including:

- Preparing and providing cultural tools and products suitable for disabled children, in accordance with the type of their disabilities;
- Creating and opening up rehabilitation training centers for children with disabilities in underprivileged areas;
- Providing rehabilitation, care and outreach services for children with disabilities at home (making the residential spaces accessible for less-privileged families with disabled members, such as stairways, toilets, providing special beds for children with severe motor disabilities and sending assistants for families with two or more disabled children, at least four times a week);
- Providing rehabilitation devices for disabled children;
- Providing medical services for disabled children (sending medical teams for treating children with spinal cord injuries);
- Providing grants for treating and rehabilitating children with metabolic disorders which lead to disability;
- Development of techniques for prevention of disabilities resulting from genetic disorders.

45. A.3. Paragraph 10 of the “Charter of Citizenship Rights” ratified on 17th July 2016 by the general board of the Supreme Court, states: citizens have the right to benefit from social services such as psychological counselling, rehabilitation and empowering trainings and services for supporting socially vulnerable and affected people, and persons with disabilities and limitations should be provided with suitable social and civic environment.

46. A.4. A memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Office of the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Education in 2015. The purpose of this memorandum was to strengthen, develop and institutionalize the concept of gender equity in educational and cultural planning related to girls in the sixth development plan and also in planning and policy making for upgrading the literacy level of girls, particularly in rural and underprivileged areas, and for preventing disabled girls from being deprived of education.

B. In the executive field

47. B. 1. In the field of children with disabilities, the State Welfare Organization of Iran carries out the following measures:

- Receiving parentless disabled children in boarding care centers and sending them to volunteer families.
- Creation of daily rehabilitation centers for keeping and educating disabled children by non-governmental organizations.
- Screening for autism spectrum disorders for children between 2 to 5 years of age; including the training of facilitators all over Iran for screening and diagnosing autism spectrum disorder, center-based and family-based interventions and also preparing information pamphlets and brochures about autism spectrum disorders and daily training packages about family-based interventions in autism disorders.
- Conducting screening and intervention programs on hearing disorders in children, early diagnosis and intervention using hearing aids such as cochlear implants and use ear trumpets and allocating 30 million Riyals annually for cochlear implant surgeries and for conducting auditory training programs.

48. Given that different levels of physical and mental disabilities in children require timely interventions and special follow-ups, the national program for screening the growth and development of children is being implemented. In this way, children with disabilities will be screened and sent to centers for growth and development of children to receive services and their information will be recorded. Currently, there is at least one center for developmental disorders in every province capital and screening is conducted in health centers all over Iran.

- Continuous conducting of arts and sport programs for disabled children in all rehabilitation and training centers.
- Performing theatre for disabled children and teenagers and holding theatre festivals and disabled sports festivals.
- Covering 1033331 disabled children and their families under medical services insurance.
- Providing economic services and paying part of the costs of sex reassignment surgery, part of living costs and costs of outreach, social and consulting services before and after surgery to all individuals who suffer from gender identity disorder.
- Continuously holding puberty and sex education courses for children without an effective supervisor, families under coverage and children with disabilities.
- Providing services for 21518 children with disabilities in daily training and rehabilitation centers for the under-15 mentally disabled.
- Providing vocational training services to 10484 children with disabilities.
- Providing 2892 children with spinal cord injuries with supportive, production, rehabilitation and empowerment services and sports and recreational programs.
- Providing rehabilitation services for 354000 children with disabilities, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, audiology, optometry, speech therapy and orthopedics.
- Providing rehabilitation equipments for 15000 disabled children, including wheelchairs, wavy mats, sticks, ear trumpets and services for diagnosis and early intervention in rehabilitation units for children.

- Providing services for 952 Afghan and Iraqi disabled refugee children in cooperation with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs and the UN Refugee Office.

49. B.2. Based on the Ministry of Education's directive and in accordance with the discretion of special schools directorate, the plan for integrating border students (regarding intelligence) and other disabled individuals, who do not need special supports, into ordinary schools will be implemented. Moreover, partially sighted students will be enrolled in ordinary schools.

50. Also, if children get disabled as a result of terrorist attacks and war, they will be provided with full support, including educational, medical, health, living, sports, rehabilitation, leisure and recreational facilities. The Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs considers it as its duty to provide those facilities for individuals' lifelong and appropriate to their needs.

51. Those services are provided regardless of race, ethnicity, language, religion, etc.

52. The provisions of the comprehensive plan in the field of children with disabilities are provided in *attachment 1*.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 11 of the list of issues

53. The presence of non-governmental bodies in the State Welfare Organization's strategic council for rehabilitation and their presence as supervisors in the supreme council for persons with disabilities has helped with making of decisions and introduction of programs with priorities given to children with disabilities. Also organizations of persons with disabilities, such as the Society of children with Autism, Down syndrome association, PKU association; and informal groups consisting of mothers and members of families with disabled members participate in making decisions on children with disabilities.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 12 of the list of issues

54. Currently, two important sections of the State Welfare Organization are responsible for making the environment and facilities accessible for the disabled.

55. First stands the headquarter for coordination and surveillance, with the Welfare Organization as its secretary and the Minister of the Interior as its head, who is responsible for consulting with Governmental organizations and for supervising the process of making those facilities accessible.

56. Second is the access group for rehabilitation, which tries to provide access for the disabled to virtual environments and educational resources in addition to providing help and support for making the houses and vehicles of the disabled accessible.

57. Also the book "architecture and urbanism regulations for physically disabled people" is used as a reference for the required standards for architecture and design of the required environments.

58. Also, based on Article 13, ratification No. 77303, dated 6th September 2015, the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology is responsible to make websites which exist in the virtual environment accessible for people with sensory disabilities.

59. Additionally, other legislations, such as Article 69 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's fifth development plan, guarantee the social facilities to be made accessible to the disabled.

60. In the city of Tehran, carrying out the process of making sites accessible is under supervision of the Headquarter for Coordination and Surveillance of Tehran Municipality, which comprises of different departments of the Municipality (engineering and construction,

planning and architecture, beautification and cultural and social sections), and representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities and university professors. In this line, the standards required for making accessible the public places and parks and cultural, health and police sites, and residential, educational, etc. buildings have been prepared and announced to different units for implementation.

61. In paragraph 10 of the Charter of Citizenship Rights of Tehran's City Council, ratified in 2016, the necessity for making pass ways, sidewalks and the social environment accessible for persons with disabilities has been emphasize.

62. Moreover, in the area of supervision, via forming community clubs in Tehran, persons with disabilities may identify those locations needed to be made accessible and report them directly to the Mayors of different districts for modification.

63. Creating a system for the transportation of persons with disabilities with free services, creating 22 parks specially for the disabled in the 22 districts of Tehran with the supervision of people with disabilities, making the parks in the city accessible for them and opening up a stadium that is accessible for the disabled and veterans which provides free services for them and their companions, are of the steps that have been taken in the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran and are extending to other cities.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 13 of the list of issues

64. Abolition of capital punishment is not a universal human rights standard and there is no binding international treaty in which capital punishment is identified as a norm of international law.

65. Nevertheless, there are active discussions in Iran on the possibility of cancelling capital punishment for the drug related criminals who have not committed grave offenses and mass trafficking of drugs.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 14 of the list of issues

66. In general, the measures taken by the Relief and Rescue Organization of the Red Crescent Society, with the aim of reducing disaster risks which may cause major disabilities in accidents, are as follows:

- Holding specialized training courses;
- Strengthening communication and telecommunication systems;
- Review of the system for Quick call and access to rescue forces;
- Creating and strengthening a geographical information system to prevent and cope with accidents;
- Intersectoral collaboration with stakeholders to determine probable risks;
- Review of the content of courses on preventing and coping with accidents;
- Publishing educational textbooks for the disabled and vulnerable groups;
- Conducting self-learning and public education programs, aimed at reducing fatalities and injuries in accidents;
- Designing and launching a center for training rescue skills in the Red Crescent Society;
- Training personnel and managers for coping with accidents caused by earthquake and flood;
- Performing maneuvers on coping with incidents caused by earthquake and flood;

- Identifying and developing probable scenarios of incidents caused by earthquake and flood;
- Collaborating with stakeholder organizations on implementing safety standards in normal conditions (prevention) and the way to cope with unexpected conditions;
- Creating an emergency warning system;
- Using experiences of other countries through expanding research on reducing injuries and fatalities caused by incidents;
- Analyzing site locations and matching them with the incident zoning map of Iran, to respond quickly and reduce fatalities caused by accidents;
- Creating software systems for optimal functioning of preparedness and response;
- Updating equipment and depots of rescue items, as well as taking vulnerable groups into account when distributing rescue and survival items at the time of incident;
- Creating rehabilitation centers to improve conditions of those injured in incidents.

67. Additionally, the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the Welfare Organization and the Organization of Municipalities, have prepared and are conducting training and preventive programs on the dangers of natural disasters, and they are training different groups of the society on the ways of dealing with disasters and how to perform timely interventions.

68. Of the measures related to the issue are producing educational films and packages, requiring public buildings to be retrofitted, performing educational programs and maneuvers via simulating natural disasters and preparing the requirements for the occasions of possible incidents.

69. Moreover, based on the existing decrees in the comprehensive law on protecting the rights of veterans, all war-disabled veterans are covered under life, accident and also house insurance as well as disaster insurance (such as flood, earthquake, fire, etc.). It must be mentioned that the number of war-disabled veterans who are covered under the mentioned insurances is 509798 people; of which 266298 have been insured by the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs and the rest have been insured via other organizations where they are employed.

70. Actions taken so far by the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education are as follows:

71. Since 2003, simultaneous with Bam city earthquake in Iran, the national plan for "Psycho-Social Support in Disaster" has been being carried out in order to prevent and treat the psychological disorders which are common among the disaster survivors, including acute stress and post-incident stress, pathological grief, sleep disorders, somatoform disorders, major depression and drug abuse. Suicide prevention programs were also introduced. This plan is carried out immediately after the occurrence of disasters such as earthquake, flood and so on, by psychologists and psychiatrists in outreach form. This plan includes a special protocol for vulnerable groups and for those who suffer from drug abuse, including the disabled.

72. The report on the "National Disaster Management's Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan" is attached. (attachment 2)

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 15 of the list of issues

73. Based on law, a guardian cannot be appointed for people with physical disabilities. Those people can attend a notary's office, if necessary, to appoint a lawyer for themselves.

Also, judicial authorities may appoint a trustee for disabled persons. Those legal representatives may only act as their representatives.

74. On mentally disabled persons of over 18 years of age, a guardian will be appointed and all the actions of the guardian regarding the incapacitated person (mentally disabled) will be monitored by judicial authorities. No one is allowed to deprive the disabled from their financial rights, inheritance or family relationships. Any action violating this procedure is against the law and the prosecutor will take immediate action upon being informed and he/she shall appoint a guardian for the disabled person.

75. In this line, Article 71 of the new Code of Criminal Procedure (approved in 2015) states: “in cases where prosecution requires a plaintiff’s complaint, if the victim is a child or is insane and his/her appointed guardian or legal guardian does not complain despite the interests of the person under guardianship, the prosecutor shall pursue the case. Also, victims who are unable to initiate legal proceedings for reasons such as physical or mental disability or old age, the prosecutor shall pursue the case after obtaining their consent. In this case, stopping the pursuit or implementing the verdict will also depend upon the consent of the prosecutor.”

76. Also, Article 66 of the same law has allowed people to pursue the rights of persons with disabilities in order to support the disabled: “those non-governmental organizations whose constitution is about protecting children and juveniles, women, sick people and people with physical or mental disabilities, the environment, natural resources, cultural heritage, public health and protecting the rights of citizens, can level accusations regarding crimes committed in the above fields and can participate in all stages of proceedings.”

77. Note 1 — If the committed crime has a specific victim, it is necessary to obtain his/her consent in order to take action according to this Article. If the victim is a child, insane or idiot in financial crimes, the consent of his/her parent, custodian or legal guardian will be obtained. However, if the legal guardian had committed the crime him/herself, the mentioned organizations will carry out the required measures via obtaining the consent of the temporarily appointed guardian or approval of the prosecutor.

78. Note 2 — Administrators and judicial authorities are obliged to inform victims of the crimes, under this Article, of the assistance they may receive from non-governmental organizations.

79. At the present, about 1,300,000 disabled people are being supported by the Welfare Organization. The Welfare Organization’s legal office, as the guardian of the disabled, defends their rights in courts of justice specifically in fields relating to probate of will, ownership and probable discrimination in family relationships. It also provides them with the required advice. Release of informative programs in the form of media production and educational packages and sending deaf communicators to courts are among the measures taken to defend rights of the disabled.

80. Moreover, three official memoranda have been signed with the Central Bar Association and the National Union of Bar Associations and the advisory center of the Judiciary, on free legal assistance.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 16 of the list of issues

81. The rights of the disabled have been taken into account in laws relating to proceedings. For instance: the new Code of Criminal Procedure (approved in 2015) states:

“Article 187 — whenever a person who has been summoned or for whom a warrant of arrest has been issued is not able to attend the interrogator due to illness, old age or other excuses determined by the interrogator, in case the criminal issue is an

important and urgent one, and if investigations are possible, the interrogator will attend him and will carry out the required investigations.”

“Article 216 — in case the witness or the informed is unable to attend for reasons such as illness or old age, or if the witnesses or the informed people are many and are in one or different places and also whenever the importance and urgency of a matter demands, the interrogator will visit the place and will carry out the investigation.”

“Article 321 — whenever the presence of a witness or an informed person in the court session is not possible because of an illness which is incurable for a long or unknown time, the presiding judge of the court or another judge who is a member of the branch, will attend the witness or the informed person and will hear his/her statement.”

82. The Welfare Organization, as the only organization holding the right of guardianship of disabled individuals, is responsible for defending the rights of those individuals in judicial bodies. Disabled individuals from different age groups may refer to the legal office of the Welfare Organization to be provided with an attorney and receive support in preparing a petition and in different stages of institution of proceedings.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 17 of the list of issues

83. Disabled children benefit from the services and supports provided by the Welfare Organization and the Special Education Organization.

84. Disabled women benefit from different supports and services. Currently, the number of disabled women covered by the Welfare Organization is 467872 individuals.

85. The legal office of the Welfare Organization, which is responsible for defending the rights of people with disabilities, is responsible to support disabled women and children in different social levels.

- Implementing the plan for teaching life skills to girls with mental disabilities who are primary school students, which was signed between the president’s deputy on Women and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Education in 2014.

86. In this plan, 16 two-day workshops were held in the 7 provinces of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, South Khorasan, North Khorasan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Tehran, Kermanshah, and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad. 1566 girls with mental disabilities and 1566 parents were provided with skills trainings, as a result of which, beside gaining the necessary abilities, their individual autonomy and participation in the society would be made possible.

- Support of the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs for the service providing activities of non-governmental organizations that work for persons with disabilities.

87. Supporting NGOs throughout the country to present services to families with disabled members, families with a disabled woman as the guardian, and persons with disabilities are of the activities of this deputy. Of these services, improving vocational trainings and presenting counseling services, empowerment and skills trainings can be mentioned, which were carried out in 2013-2015.

88. Also, people with disabilities, from any gender, may benefit equally and without discrimination from the services provided by relevant organizations.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 18 of the list of issues

89. In the Criminal Procedure Code, mentioned above, some advantages have been predicted for implementation of criminal sentences for disabled and ill persons. Its provisions are as follows:

90. “Article 489 — duties of the judge supervising the execution of criminal sentences include:

A — Issuing the verdict for implementing the enforceable criminal decisions and supervising the manner of implementing them.

E — Taking decisions about elderly convicts, those who suffer from psychological illnesses, those who suffer from difficult to treat physical illnesses and other individuals who need special attention and care, such as issuing permission for hospitalizing the convict in health centers based on relevant criteria and regulations.

91. “Article 502 — whenever the convicted person suffers from a physical or psychological illness and execution of the verdict exacerbates the illness or delays the amelioration, the judge who supervises execution of criminal sentences will postpone implementation of the punishment, after asking opinion from the forensic medicine experts, until the convict is recovered. If, in discretionary offenses, there is no hope for the patient to recover, the judge supervising implementation of criminal sentences, after ascertaining the convicted person’s illness, which impedes carrying out of the punishment, mentions the reason and sends the file to the authority which issues the final verdict so that the punishment would be converted to another appropriate one, considering the type of illness and punishment.

92. Note — whenever illness occurs during execution of a verdict and when postponing execution of the punishment is urgent, the judge supervising implementation of criminal sentences, beside issuing the verdict for suspending its execution, shall act in accordance with provisions of this Article.”

93. Article 503 — “In discretionary offenses, whenever the convicted person falls afflicted with insanity after the final verdict is issued, implementation of the verdict will be suspended until the lucid interval; except in financial punishments which are collected from the convicted person’s properties.

94. Note — a person who is sentenced to prison punishment or who is imprisoned because of failure to pay a fine, in case of insanity, will be kept in a mental hospital or another suitable place until recovery. Days of confinement shall be counted as part of his/her punishment term.”

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 19 of the list of issues

95. Practical measures in the organization of prisons which are as follows:

- Exemption from performing daily programs (as written in the executive by-law of the Organization) via issuing of a certificate of excuse by the prison’s doctor.
- Being taken care of in nursing homes for elderly prisoners (considering their physical condition) and using lower deck beds. Also, on the note of Article 118 of the executive by-law of this Organization, the Society for Protection of Prisoners in every city is responsible to provide poor individuals with facilities such as: special toilets, wheelchairs, canes, dentures, glasses, and so on.
- Taking necessary steps by outreach units of the prison so that they would benefit from conditions of amnesty and commutation of punishments and also to receive the assent of plaintiffs to be released from prison.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 20 of the list of issues

96. By law only the mentally disabled people may not be put to trial for their actions. In this case, they will be exonerated and, if necessary, they will be introduced to special hospitals assigned for keeping those disabled people and a guardian shall be appointed for them. In case of damages incurred by them and existence of properties, the incurred losses will be deducted from their properties.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 21 of the list of issues

97. The association of non-governmental centers as a specialized non-governmental institution monitors the performance of different rehabilitation and care centers, particularly the centers for rehabilitation of patients with chronic mental disorders. In the governmental section, monitoring is done by the relevant specialized office by daily and boarding rehabilitation offices. In case of ill-treatment, the supreme commission for supervising the centers, subject of Article 26 of the law on “drafting parts of financial regulations of the Government” shall make required investigate through independent judicial authorities on torture and persecution of persons with disabilities in the mentioned centers.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 22 of the list of issues

98. Punishments for canonical offenses inflict no harms which would lead to disabilities and the punishments which lead to a form of impairment are rare. Moreover, the Judges are encouraged to apply alternative punishments in their decisions.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 23 of the list of issues

99. In case if complaints filed against those accused of exercising violence, whether physical, psychological, sexual, or moral, against disabled individuals, including men, woman, children or the elderly, the complaint will be investigated. Based on laws, victims of the crime have the right to litigate and receive compensation. All perpetrators of acts of violence receive the same treatment. All individuals, whether from the public or persons with administrative, judicial, military or etc. positions may be prosecuted and put to trial. According to the law allowing the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to accede to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified on 2nd of March 1994, any type of persecution or torture of children and juveniles is forbidden.

100. A social emergency agency and centers for advice and intervention in crises have been established by the Welfare Organization whose services cover all groups of the society. They perform their duties with priority given to issues of disabled children and women and the elderly. For easy and timely access to their intended services, individuals can use the free hot line phone number 123. If required, in person services will be provided via sending experienced social workers to their place of residence.

101. Furthermore, in the organizational structure of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, an outreach bureau has been created to provide family, psychological and social counseling. It provides outreach services to veterans and their families throughout Iran in the form of codified programs.

102. Existing laws of the country on the issue of violence, sexual violence and physical punishment against children includes disabled children, as well. In addition to legal measures, these issues require cultural measures and large scale public awareness programs. For this purpose, in the area of cultural approach, with the purpose of fighting violence against children, removing all forms of physical punishments, early marriage, and etc, the following are important:

23-1. Holding a series of scientific meetings on the role of religious leaders in preventing violence against children. The meetings were held in 2014 by the national authority on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in cooperation with UNICEF and other relevant scientific and executive bodies. The emphasis was on the 4 issues of gender, ethnic and religious discrimination; negligence and carelessness; early and enforced marriage and sexual violence.

103. In this direction, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the capacity and position of religious leaders among people may be used in the promotion of the rights of the child and family for awareness raising and cultural cognition.

23-2. Since 2015, the Office of the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs has been investigating a survey titled marriage under the legal age. After identifying the existing gaps in the field of protecting children against early or forced marriage, the survey will be presented to the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

23-3. According to the regulations stipulated in the Islamic Republic of Iran's law and the Criminal Procedure Code, if any individual, regardless of his/her situation, is treated violently, he/she shall have the legal possibility to initiate legal proceedings, and in this process the situation of individuals is not determinative. Moreover, based on Article 66 of the Criminal Procedure Code, non-governmental organizations, active in the field of children, are vested with the competence to level accusations and participate in all stages of proceedings.

104. Those organizations may report cases of violent behavior to judicial authorities.

105. Also, as it was mentioned in question No. 9, presently the Hits scale is used for initial screening of domestic violence against women of over 15 years of age. Also, the domestic instruments for identifying cases of misbehavior against children and juveniles are being used in the new system of primary health cares.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 24 of the list of issues

106. The law on the accession of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the optional protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on child selling, prostitution and pornography, adopted on 24th May 2000, in addition to preparing the possibility of preventing child abuse, has brought about the required conditions necessary for prosecuting the offenders.

107. Ratification of the law on fighting against human trafficking (18.7.2004) and Article 3 of the law on protecting the rights of children and juveniles, adopted in 2002 are worth mentioning.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 25 of the list of issues

108. Article 706 of the Islamic Penal Code, approved in 2013, clearly criminalizes the act of destroying the power of reproduction of men or women's ability to conceive and the pleasure of intercourse for a man or woman and Article 707 criminalizes complete destruction of a man or woman's ability of intercourse. Since the Article's verdict is absolute, the support by lawmakers includes all citizens, including citizens with disabilities.

109. It is worth mentioning that reproductive health preventive services, like other services, are provided with due respect to the dignity and rights of the couples and individuals to help them with reaching their reproductive programs within a framework which would upgrade family's health, responsibility and welfare to the highest possible level and prevent undesired and high-risk pregnancies and the illnesses and deaths resulting from them.

110. As a first step, provision of this service depends on the individual's request. Before surgical contraception, a conscious and voluntary letter of consent for performing the operation is obtained from all those who apply to receive the service. A conscious and voluntary letter of consent is a form that applicants fill to announce their consent in writing.

111. The form for conscious and voluntary consent is filled with complete freedom without any compulsion or reward. It is necessary to make sure that the applicant receives full information about: existence of temporary methods, advantages and disadvantages of the surgery, permanence of the method and so on. It is evident that the applicant may cancel the operation at any stage if he/she wishes so. It is necessary that the surgery to be conducted after the doctor provides detailed advice and takes into account the required precautions and receives complete information about the medical record and illnesses of the applicant.

112. It should also be mentioned that the services are enforceable simultaneous with the start of providing the information.

113. If, for any reason, the family requests an operation for persons who have mental disabilities and they are unable to make decisions on themselves, the operation shall be carried out, after receiving his/her father or custodian's written request and obtaining the viewpoint of the Ministry of Justice, and if legal permission be given and other health conditions be examined. The text of the Article of law reads as follows:

"About the mentally disabled who are married and whose family or custodian requests that such an operation be conducted for them, since those persons are considered incapacitated according to the law and performing those surgeries could produce irreversible effects for them, namely infertility, it is legally necessary to obtain permission from judicial authorities for performing such surgeries. In each case, the compulsory guardian or the custodian of the incapacitated person can obtain permission for the surgery."

114. At present, instead of expanding boarding centers, measures by the Welfare Organization focus on developing in-house care services, activating self-helping social groups, strengthening daily rehabilitation clinics and activating the role of families in rehabilitating the disabled. Also, services are being provided in the form of assistive technologies and aids which rely on modern scientific technology.

115. The State Welfare Organization has taken the following steps on strategy and resources for deinstitutionalization:

25-1 — carrying out the "rehabilitation and care services by trained carers" program.

116. Via establishing and opening of 93 family-based centers, since the second half of the year 1392 (2013) the centers have provided rehabilitation and care services by their trained carers to families in need of long-term care programs via sending the trained carers to their homes and they have managed to solve this problem to a reasonable degree. Two thousand trained carers, in addition to providing care services for helping and training activities of daily living (ADL and IADL), they make the necessary arrangements for making the homes accessible.

117. Number of persons receiving services: 11000 individuals since the second half of the year 1392.

25-2 — providing rehabilitation services at home.

118. Those centers provide rehabilitation services at home via members of their rehabilitation teams which include doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychologists and social workers. The number of persons with disabilities who receive services is 17485 individuals. The number of centers is 378.

25-3 — The plan for presenting care and rehabilitation services at home by family members in unprivileged and less-privileged areas (particularly rural areas).

119. With the aim of expanding care and rehabilitation services, to the families who are in need of long-term care programs but lack facilities, economic power and easy access to rehabilitation centers, the Welfare Organization has launched the plan for providing rehabilitation and care services at home by family members in unprivileged and less-privileged areas (particularly rural areas). It is anticipated that in this plan, which has started since 21st November this year, 800 persons with disabilities, residing in unprivileged and less-privileged areas, to be covered by education and financial support.

25-4 — Supporting families with disabled persons via paying home care allowance.

Number of individuals receiving the service: 2500 persons.

25-5 — Financial and educational support for families who take care of the person with disability after being deinstitutionalized from boarding centers.

Number of individuals receiving the service: 849 persons.

25-6 — Establishing small homes for the mentally disabled since 2012.

120. In this plan, the mentally disabled with unknown identity, with irresponsible parents and without parents who have mild disabilities, will not be housed in ordinary rest homes, rather in houses similar to ordinary Iranian homes and according to regional and local customs with the cooperation of philanthropists and people's organizations; the activities of which are in line with the goals of the Organization. This plan is carried out for those persons with mild disabilities whose proper and necessary growth would be hampered if kept with those persons with severe mental disabilities.

121. In such homes, nursery services, schools, daily training and rehabilitation centers, vocational training and supported workshops and rehabilitation clinics out of home provide the disabled with various trainings including motor skills, cognitive and perceptual motor skills, daily living skills, communication skills and games, additional to provision of care and shelter.

122. The strategy in those programs is rehabilitation according to the society and allocation of State funds to expand measures by non-governmental bodies.

123. The Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs provides counseling services, individually or in groups, with the purpose of extending the insight and awareness of individuals, providing solutions to facilitate making reasonable and constructive choices, treat or solve personal problems and to recognize and identify the factors which influence health, illness or disorders relating to the individual; with the ultimate goal of promoting the health and psychology of individuals.

124. It also provides outreach services for 564,822 disabled veterans who are under coverage, the most important goals of which are:

- Preventing creation and expansion of social problems;
- Preparing for individuals' self-reliance and empowerment;
- Helping with development of talents and abilities of individuals so that they would recognize their strengths and weaknesses to face new circumstances;
- Preparing the required conditions for reducing stress factors and increasing the sense of psychological security and social growth;
- Developing interpersonal communications according to social norms.

125. Also, at present, community mental health center (CMHC) program is run by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in 10 locations of the country and it is anticipated that in a period of 10 years it will increase to 500 centers throughout the country. It should be noted that those services are provided to all mental patients who are hospitalized for a period of time and deinstitutionalized. In general, the services include provision of mental health services in the community, post-discharge services, rehabilitation, reduction of hospitalization time for ultimate reduction of the number of relapses and hospitalizations and enhancing the quality of the patients' life.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 26 of the list of issues

126. Sign language is used as an official language. Teachers in schools for the deaf use the hybrid method that combines the sign and oral methods; and also sign language is taught.

127. Also in the proposed bill of Iran's Government to amend the provisions of the Comprehensive law for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, using sign language and formal education across the country, as well as facilitation of the use of volunteer experts in sign language for the deaf, are anticipated.

128. Presence of experts on deaf in various networks of IRIB (Radio & Television) programs has made the programs of these networks accessible for the deaf.

129. Also, at public events and group meetings, using a deaf interpreter is quite normal.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 27 of the list of issues

130. Braille Education is carried out officially in schools for blind and rehabilitation centers and in addition to audio files, books are provided for them in Braille format. Currently, the Social Welfare and Special Education Organizations are considered as the administrators of Braille formal training. In this regard, the Special Education Organization attempts to convert normal students' text books into Braille to be used by the blind and it has donated tablets to and published bold letters books for partially sighted students in order to provide the education opportunity for them.

131. Article 11 of Act No. 77303 of the Cabinet of Ministers, dated 6/09/2015 which bounds the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to allocate funds for the production of books and publications in braille and Article 12 which bounds all legal authorities to release all laws and regulations, instructions and circulars in Braille are two more steps taken by the Government in this area.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 28 of the list of issues

132. According to Article 13 of Act No. 77303 dated Sept 6, 2015, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is responsible to make the virtual space websites accessible for people with sensory disabilities. Also, all newspapers and magazines give access to their contents by disabled people in electronic form.

133. Increase of the use of Deaf interpreter in various Television Networks is also among other measures in this regard. In addition, Iran Sepid newspaper is published as the only daily newspaper for the blind in the Middle East.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 29 of the list of issues

134. One of the main programs of Special Education Organization is the inclusive policy for expansion of education and education of exceptional students alongside normal students. Currently, nearly 50,000 students, belonging to the blinds, the deaf, physical-motor and etc. groups are studying along with normal students. This figure includes 40% of exceptional

students studying in special schools. In this context, participation of the ordinary education system, especially in pre-schools and elementary schools is accelerating the development of inclusive education.

135. Partial payment of tuition fee, preparing learning assistant tools, transportation services, as well as holding educational, pilgrimage and recreation tours in each academic year, attended by mothers of the supported disabled children, has been carried out by the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs.

136. In 2016, the meeting was held with the cooperation of Special Education Organization in Mashhad, 208 students attended in separate groups of boys and girls with their mothers, who were 408 people all together and an amount of 5,350,000,000 Riyals was spent to enrich the program.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 30 of the list of issues

137. More than 1570 Education Centers for Exceptional Children were created for Students with Disabilities. Transportation is free of charge for this group of students.

138. To facilitate the continuation of educational services and access of rural students with disabilities to education, more than 28 boarding centers are active under supervision of the Special Education organization.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 31 of the list of issues

139. Women and girls with disabilities, like the rest of people, can benefit from Sexual Health Services such as prevention, counseling and therapeutic services. Those people are in priority for receiving services.

140. Now, 50 governmental and 60 non-governmental infertility centers offer specialized services to all people with especial priority given to persons with disabilities in hospitals and centers affiliated to the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education. It should be added that recently insurance coverage has been dedicated for the poor in this context.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 32 of the list of issues

141. 1,292,457 persons with disabilities are under the basic insurance health services coverage of the State Welfare Organization. Also these people receive other medical allowances from the Treatment Fund for Persons with Disabilities.

142. Also, for students with special needs, the Special Education Organization offers medical support, funding for surgery, free rehabilitation services, free rehabilitation aids equipments, such as hearing aids, walkers, wheelchairs, etc.

143. An amount is allocated as the nursery fee for all disabled veterans who have high injuries and are in need of nursing services at their place of residence to employ someone from family or service companies to manage their current life affairs and also 20 cultural, sports and rehabilitation centers have been constructed for servicing persons with disabilities by the Foundation of Martyrs in 20 provinces. A reasonable number of the centers have come into operation, and in some provinces those centers are under construction.

144. Also, recently a memorandum has been signed between the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and the Foundation for Disabled War Veterans which aims to expand rehabilitation centers' services for disabled war veterans, their families and other people with disabilities. Currently the centers in Semnan, Shiraz, Kerman, Hamedan, Zahedan provinces are active.

145. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Health Transformation Plan (HTP) was launched in 2013 in the country. Under the plan, for the first time, over 25 million people in urban areas benefitted from new health services. This plan was realized through establishing more than 4,111 public health centers in the urban and suburban areas and 2,534 health care and social health care centers were established in deprived urban and suburban areas.

146. In the case of Iran's rural society, it is worth mentioning that currently 17,884 rural health centers and 2,493 healthcare centers are providing health services to 28 million villagers. Following the Health Transformation Plan, health centers which offered services from previous years in the country were equipped with complementary medicines and 436 types of medicine drugs are provided for people in those centers.

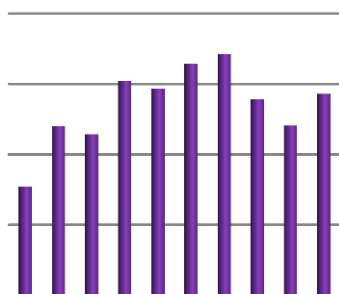
147. Other achievements of the Health Transformation Plan are:

- (i) 6,700 doctors serving in rural areas and "emergency hotline 115" services is launched in rural areas.
- (ii) Oral health services and restorative services for the general population as well as students are offered via the fixed centers and 500 mobile bases.
- (iii) For the first time, 530 mental health senior experts, 500 nutrition senior experts along with doctors and health care experts were employed in health centers and comprehensive health care centers. (For every 2-3 thousand urban population, there is 1 health care expert and for every 30-50 thousand, two psychological and nutrition experts).
- (iv) At the level of inpatient rehabilitation services:
- (v) Currently two Rehabilitation Hospitals in Tehran, with 128 special beds, offer services for persons with disabilities. It should be noted that other general and specialized hospital in psychology, internal, children, etc. sections give services to people with disabilities.
- (vi) In outpatient rehabilitation services, there are different structures ranging from rehabilitation centers and clinics, the statistics of which are as follows:
- (vii) 87 comprehensive rehabilitation centers which provide rehabilitation services in teams, in the categories of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, audiology and so on.
- (viii) Other outpatient rehabilitation services include 2252 physiotherapy clinics, 10361 occupational therapy, 1212 speech therapy, 1077 audiology and 171 technical orthopedics.

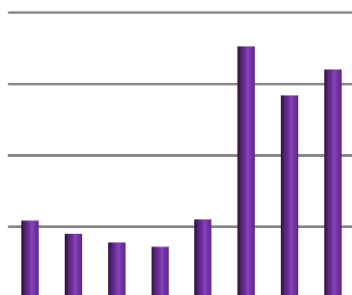
Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 33 of the list of issues

148. Since 2014, grants have been provided to different groups of persons with disabilities for job opportunities and employment facilities, as follows:

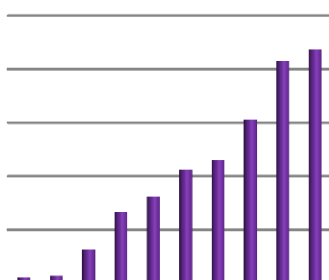
number of persons with disabilities insured
by the State Welfare Organization



Persons With Disabilities Insure by social
insurances



Number of self insured persons with
disabilities



- Employed people through the CBR program (mentorship and training): 35,575 people;
- Disabled people working in governmental bodies having 3% quota: 136 people;

- Employment of disabled people through secondary supportive production workshops: 353 people;
- From 2011 to 2014, 8310 veterans under the coverage of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs were employed through hiring or self-employment.

149. It is worth mentioning that those services, along with other measures, are offered regardless of race and gender.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 34 of the list of issues

150. Awareness making for employers and entrepreneurs in the private sector through radio-television is on the agenda of the executive departments of the Welfare Organization. The incentives considered for the private sector include: banking facilities, employer contribution insurance, self-employment insurance and subsidies to promote efficiency of the disabled.

151. Programs and activities of the Department of Employment and Entrepreneurship of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs for veterans in the private sector:

1. Guidance and occupational specialized-technical consultation:

Provision of specialized-technical and occupational consultations in order to create proper and sustainable occupations, based on people's interest, talent, skill, ability and education and labor market needs.

2. Skill and technical trainings:

Introduction of eligible veterans to participate in technical and skill training courses and job empowerment, as well as preparing the ground for discovering and developing technical and skill talents of veterans.

3. Job training:

Introducing eligible veterans to participate in the implementation of the plan of job training in order to gain job experience related to their educational field and to create the ground for trainees' employment.

4. Training Plan for Employment:

Payment of wage subsidies and salaries to employers for training and employing of veterans.

5. Employment in non-governmental sector:

Veterans benefit from facilities intended in Chapter 5 (employment and entrepreneurship) of the Comprehensive Law on Services to Veterans.

6. Payment of Interest and Charges subsidy:

Interest subsidy payments and facility fees received from the internal resources of banks to self-employment and entrepreneurship programs on veterans for implementation and sustainability of job creating projects with reducing interest rates and fees as well as increasing the competitive ability of project managers in the market.

7. Paying insurance premium of employers:

Encouraging employers, through paying insurance premium of employer by the Foundation for 5 years, in exchange for employing eligible veterans introduced by the Foundation.

8. Paying insurance premium of self-employers:

Paying insurance premium of self-employers to veterans who are managers of self-employment projects in order to encourage them to run their own businesses as well as to supply their future.

9. Employment infrastructure:

Preparing the proper conditions for the implementation of self-employment and entrepreneurship projects and supplying related expenses and providing the activity license in order to strengthen economic power of veterans and to encourage them for implementation of self-employment and entrepreneurship projects.

10. Supporting veteran entrepreneurs:

Supporting veteran entrepreneurs for marketing products or services through participation in local and international exhibitions to introduce their products.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 35 of the list of issues

152. Supporting non-governmental organizations across the country in order to provide services to households with disabled members, disabled women headed families and other disabled people, is among the activities of the Office of the Vice President on Women and Family Affairs. Those services include: improvement of economic and living conditions, skill training, employment, granting financial credits for job creation and empowerment services that were carried out from 2013 to 2015.

153. From 2010 until September 2016, 78908 disabled people benefited from special housing for persons with disabilities. They benefited from exemption from paying subscription charges for water and sewerage, electricity and gas. Also, low interest loans of 200,000,000 Riyals were dedicated to them.

154. Additionally, 11300 households, with at least two disabled members in the family (majority of them have disabled children), benefited from 300,000,000 Riyal housing grants. These are among the activities of the Welfare Organization for poverty reduction.

155. The Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs provided housing or housing facilities to 314 veteran women.

Female veterans from religious minorities benefited from housing facilities

Row	Province	QTY	Amount (Million Rials)	Row	Province	QTY	Amount (Million Rials)
1	West Azerbaijan	7	560	5	Kermanshah	128	14 855
2	Ilam	2	575	6	Lorestan	2	40
3	Tehran	3	60	7	Markazi	3	60
4	Kurdistan	2	50				
Sum						147	16 200

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 36 of the list of issues

156. Statistics of the Welfare Organization:

The number of disabled people under coverage until the end of 2015: 1,292,457 people (63.67% male, 36.20 % female, 0.13% androgynous).

The number of disabled pensioners: 321,221 people.

The number of the disabled with spinal cord injuries receiving nursing pensions: 18,943 people.

157. The number of the disabled under home care coverage: 5812 people (5555 people are receiving subsidy, the number of trained caregivers: 2000 people).

<i>Minor</i>	<i>Severe</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Under Registration</i>
162 514	242 717	461 025	344 586	81 615
12.57	18.78	35.67	26.66	6.31

<i>Vision</i>	<i>Mobility</i>	<i>Mental</i>	<i>Psychological</i>	<i>Hearing</i>	<i>Speech</i>
135 729	519 886	338 220	99 263	181 401	17 958
10.50	40.22	26.17	7.68	14.04	1.39

158. The statistics of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs:

(a) Pensions:

The Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs pays disability salaries to 91,051 people. Those salaries are equal to or more than the minimum wage of government employees.

159. Also, pensions are paid to 27,098 disabled veterans who have no job and income.

(b) Financial aids for home care:

Nursing pension is paid to 45,715 disabled veterans. The maximum amount of nursing pension for these people is 4 times the minimum labor wage.

(c) On home care pensions or financial aids for minorities:

The Foundation makes no difference between ordinary disabled veterans and disabled veterans of minorities and all enjoy equal rights.

(d) Home care services:

Around 22,000 veterans benefit from home care services based on their clinical conditions and doctor's opinion.

160. The statistics of the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee (RA):

<i>Care seekers with disabilities supported by the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee (RA)</i>			
<i>Age</i>	<i>0-19</i>	<i>20-59</i>	<i>60 and Over</i>
<i>Sum</i>	16	8 321	2 113
<i>Total</i>			7 450

<i>Care seekers based on Urban/Rural/Gender divisions</i>			
<i>urban care seekers</i>	<i>rural care seekers</i>	<i>female care seekers</i>	<i>male care seekers</i>
3 162	4 288	264	7 186

Table for percentage of care seekers based on type of impairment

Mobility	Mental and Psychological	Deaf and Mute	Blind
36 Percent	34 Percent	13 Percent	17 Percent

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 37 of the list of issues

161. According to Paragraph 6 of Article 28 of the Parliamentary election law, candidates must have physical visual, hearing and speech health at the time of registration. In order to eliminate any discrimination and limitation and to create the possibility for candidacy of blinds who enjoy all the conditions of candidacy for the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and since blinds and visually impaired people are deprived from equal access to job and social opportunities compared to other members of the society, despite having prodigious talents and intelligence, and with regard to paragraph 9 of the third principle of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution on elimination of discrimination in normal conditions and equality in social and political rights for all citizens, and considering the experience of blind and visually impaired people in parliaments around the world, who use new technologies in order to access and read laws and regulations, the Islamic Consultative Assembly examined a bill of law in the eighth and ninth parliaments through which those people may use their social and political rights to become members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. This bill of law was proposed as amendment of Paragraph 6 of Article 28 of the Parliamentary election law in order to eliminate discrimination for blind people and it was decided that the term "vision" be removed. Moreover, individuals subjected to those conditions should not have hand impairment (in order to use the Braille). This bill of law is still under consideration and review for approval in the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 38 of the list of issues

162. All required facilities for the participation of disabled and frail people in the election is provided by the Interior Ministry through district-governors' offices and county councils. All Iranian citizens who are 18 years old and above may vote and there are no limitations. Disabled and frail people, who cannot refer to fixed voting boxes, can contact the governors' offices and county councils to request for portable voting boxes. The portable voting boxes are obliged to refer to the doorsteps of those people. There are also no limitations on employing disabled people in polling stations as executive officers.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 39 of the list of issues

163. The Welfare Organization, with the participation of spinal cord injury non-governmental associations, has developed a comprehensive bank of spinal cord injury victims that consists of 19,000 persons with disabilities who receive services. Also, recorded statistics of the Welfare Organization regarding different groups with disabilities has been compiled electronically, according to demographic characteristics such as age, sex, education, employment, etc.

164. Those information banks are annually updated, based on the percentage of incidence and prevalence of different disabilities and their severity.

165. In the structure of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs with the special database system design (comprehensive integrated information system for veterans), all the information on veterans are up to date and any changes in their conditions are recorded and amended on a daily basis.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 40 of the list of issues

166. According to bill No. 77303 which was ratified by the Government on September 6, 2015, a coordination council for persons with disabilities is set up to coordinate the measures of administrative organs and to follow up on the rights of disabled people in public and private sectors.

167. The council is composed of the representatives of administrative organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations for persons with disabilities and representatives of the judiciary and the parliament.

168. Furthermore, in the bill for reforming the comprehensive law on protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, a similar council with the same title is stipulated to monitor the proper implementation of the aforementioned law.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 41 of the list of issues

169. According to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, ratified by the Islamic Consultative Assembly on December 3, 2008, the Welfare Organization as well as the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs are put in charge of supervising implementation of the Convention, throughout the country. For supervision over this procedure, a joint secretariat was defined between those two organizations, with the presence of representatives from governmental executive entities.
