

Thank you very much Madam Chair for giving me the opportunity to take the floor. I belong to the Arab minority in Iran. In your programme you are talking about effective and meaningful participation in economy as well as economic, and development policy making whereas the Arab in southwest Iran are facing a lot of racist discrimination economically, politically and culturally. This has been confirmed by the UN committee to combat all forms of racial discrimination last August. Criticism was levied against Iran on the way it deals with the minorities the Baluch, the Arabs, the Kurds the Azeris expressed concern is well on racial discrimination that is practiced daily which incite racial discrimination as mentioned by Iranian officials. I have only mentioned state racism but the matter is not confined to this, it has developed during the 8 plus decades amongst, it has become a culture practiced by the Persian society. I am Ahwazi journalist and through my life with these categories I have suffered and agonised a lot. I was in a newspaper where I worked among Persian intellectuals and during my work I have found out a document that has been published by the statistics department in Ahwaz region it states that during 10 years from 2006 to 1996, from 1996 to 2006 833,000 non-Arab have settled in this area, this means that one million persons have been displaced and settled in Ahwaz until 2010. This has led to demographic composition in a way that is not in the interest of Ahwazi Arabs. I do recommend the following;

First of all that Arabic language would be taught to Arab children in the primary area, in the region of Arabistan in Arabic, this is a right of under the UN instruments, Iran was not confined to it despite its signature on this instruments. You know education is the basis for any development policy, second to promulgate laws that put an end to Persianisation policies, to prevent anti-Arab racist speech in mass media. Further to make room for the Arab minority to practice the economic activities in the primary, in the private sector. Fourth to lift the ban on the parties and NGOs that are concerned with the Arab minority to practice freely their views and not the parliamentarians who are elected in an undemocratic fashion. This has, this took place in 2001 when President Khatami was in charge. Fifth, allocate 20% of the oil revenue extracted from this region to develop the economy of this minority to bridge the gap between the Arab minority and majority dominating the economic and political authority in Iran.

I thank you very much.