

Thank you Mr. Chair. The Iranians. Guided by true teachings of Islam and inspired by our long history of tolerance among religions, have always respected and revered all ethnic and religious, including Christians and Jews, Zoroastrians and Sabians. We have taken maximum care to help this atmosphere of peaceful coexistence be translated and assimilated in all aspects of Iranian life. Basically, in its thousand years history of politics, Iran has been a territory in which nation building has not been in any way ethnic or religious and never on the dichotomy of majority and minority. And especially the category of ethnic discrimination [inaudible] is in this country rather meaningless. The constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran provides for an independent chapter entitled, "The Rights of the Nation," which recognises the legitimate and legal rights freedoms of various social classes including linguistic, religious and Iranian ethnics. Mr. Chair, all citizens, men and women enjoy equal protection of civil, economic, social and cultural rights. Finally as a recommendation Mr. Chair advocacy for minority rights should not be abused as a tool and pretext for any activity contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Including sovereign equality and territorial integrity and political independence of its states. And it should not become a false flag for interfering in the domestic affairs of other nations. And this forum should be safeguarded from such attempts. I thank you Mr. Chair.