

STATEMENT OF H.E. DR. HAMIDREZA BARADARAN SHORAKA
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Opening Ceremony of the 6th Global Forum on Reinventing Government
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In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Excellencies, Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I deem it a great pleasure to participate in the 6th Global Forum on Reinventing Government. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for all its efforts to host the Forum in collaboration with the United Nations. I am confident that the active participation of the distinguished participants will lead the present Forum to fruitful results.

As you are fully aware, two main characteristics of good governance are to be participatory and transparent. Therefore, efforts for State reinvention should be done in line with development and enhancement of participatory and transparent governance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Like other countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran has fully understood the necessity of government reinvention and in harmony with global society has chosen good governance and its realization as an important goal in its development plans. After the Islamic revolution victory and particularly in the recent decade, considerable measures have been taken in order to carry out and enhance the principles of participatory governance in Iran. I would like to attract your attention toward some of them. One of the measures undertaken is civil society enhancement. Existence of civil society is an important prerequisite of the realization of good governance.

Through an independent and capable civil society, transparency and accountability of the government would be increased and participation enhanced. Good governance will be realized through effective interaction of civil society and State. Also, in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, people's participation in administrative affairs of the country has been emphasized. Local Islamic councils at rural, city, and provincial levels and Supreme Provincial councils are from among the institutions in which people are participating, and they are undertaking some part of the public affairs and management of the country. In our Five-Year Socio-Economic and Cultural Development Plans, emphasis has also been put upon the aforesaid Councils, as well as people's participation. In the current Fourth Five-Year Development Plan of the country, provisions have been made through which it would be possible to maximize people's participation in social

and cultural activities, as well as government services. Generally, civil society activities in Iran can be classified under five broad categories: environmental protection and sustainable development, health, women and development, children and adolescents, and science and technology.

Distinguished delegates,

Expansion of private sector participation in public sector activities, as well as public or private partnership, is one of the measures related to the enhancement of participatory governance in Iran.

The rationality behind public sector involvement is that private sector suppliers deliver goods and services with higher quality and lower cost as an alternative to or through partnership with the government sector.

This participatory approach aims at upgrading the delivery of government services and at the same time making government accountable, which will finally lead to good governance.

People participation in public sector activities has always been an important aspect of the Socio-Economic and Cultural Development Plans of the country. In fact, government downsizing through expansion of the partnership between government and the private sector is followed as a key strategy. The following are some of the ways of attracting private sector involvement in public sector activities, which have been adopted by law:

1. Buying services instead of producing and direct provision of services in social and cultural sectors.
2. Partnership with the non-governmental sector in implementing those developmental projects which have not been completed yet.
3. Devolving management of the government organizational units to the private sector.

Another important aspect of participatory governance is decentralization, through which administrative system's efficiency is upgraded, while increasing the possibility of the people's participation in administration and management.

In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic councils (local and community institutions) beside the Islamic Consultative Assembly are considered as the main pillars of decision making in the country's administrative affairs. The Constitution distinctly has mentioned provincial, country, city, community, district, and rural councils as well as Supreme Provincial Councils and has put emphasis upon people's participation in determining their fate.

In line with decentralization policies, the Government is pursuing the following objectives:

- Decentralizing operations and freeing the government from unnecessary undertakings through sharing duties and responsibilities and finally devolving authority to the non-governmental sector.
- Maintaining national unity and utilizing community cooperation and creativity for the country's construction
- Identifying balanced geographical zones in the country's divisions through the reform of the country's Administrative Divisions Law.
- Paying attention and pursuing people's complaints from executive institutions in different regions through the establishment of the Administrative Justice Court.

Honorable delegates,

In addition to the aforesaid measures, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken considerable steps in order to increase transparency in governance.

No doubt, lack of transparency and its fruit – that is, administrative health – is the sine-qua-non of good governance.

Governments should formulate and establish necessary legal and legislative systems in order to reduce corruption. Sustainable development, better quality of life for all, and the rule of law require reduction and removal of corruption in the country. Combating corruption should be done in different legal, judicial, and executive dimensions. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in consideration with believing in moral principles of the Islamic school, has taken many actions in line with combating corruption and providing transparency, the two important of which are:

1. Adoption of a program to upgrade the administrative system's health and combating with corruption in 2004, through:
 - Enhancing transparency and accountability.
 - Increasing service receivers' satisfaction, meeting rights of consumers, and respecting the clients.
 - Establishing a meritocrat system in selection and appointment processes in government.
 - Improving public culture and enhancing people's supervisory role.
 - Improving organizational culture and strengthening moral and religious values in employees' organizational-occupational behavior.

- Enhancing the participation and activities of non-governmental sectors, through removing monopolies in economic, executive, and developmental activities.
 - Establishing an efficient legal system for preventing and combating corruption and creating a healthy environment for making decisions, taking measures, and doing activities in public and governmental organizations.
2. Approval of a by-law directed toward prevention and combating against bribes in executive agencies in the year 2005.

In this by-law, a suitable mechanism has been provided for prevention and combat against administrative corruption in order to facilitate service delivery to people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The mentioned issues and activities represent the Islamic Republic of Iran's extensive attempts toward establishing participatory and transparent governance.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude again to the Government of the Republic of Korea and the United Nations for holding the 6th Global Forum. I deem it necessary to express the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to cooperate with countries of the world, international organizations, and institutions in implementing and realizing the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you.