**Answers of Islamic Republic of Iran to to Questions raised by the**

**Special Rapporteur on Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

-         Response to  questions 1, 3 & 4:

          The Islamic Republic of Iran has been obstructed from using international financial contribution to support the empowerment of person  with disabilities because of unjust and unlawful unilateral coercive measures imposed by the US.

-         Response to question 2:

The Islamic Republic of Iran has cooperated with a number of countries the region in transferring of know-how on rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.  These south-south cooperation has included empowerment programs, community-based rehabilitation programs, specialized projects on children suffering from autism, strengthening accessibility

to effective solutions for people with disabilities as well as improving international participating in international conferences.

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The participation of persons with disabilities in the society has been promoted, including by facilitating the organization of relevant NGOs. They have contributed to decision making processes related to the well- being and everyday life of persons with disabilities. They have also played a significant role, alongside State agencies, in devising and implementing empowerment projects. Nearly 300 out of 600 NGOs are actively engaged with the National Welfare Organization.

These NGOs have participated in the drafting of the law on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, drafting  of the Law on the Accession of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, among others.

 They have, as well, accompanied the delegations in many international gatherings related to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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-       Based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Welfare Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the UNHCR, arond 15,000 people with disabilities from among Afghan refugees have received pedagogical, medical and rehabilitation services from 2002 to 2018. These projects were implemented in 17 provinces where Afghan refugees lived.

            -In order to improve inter-sectoral coordination for addressing challenges the  children with disabilities face, the first conference on children with disabilities was held in 2019 in Tehran with the cooperation of UNICEF and collaboration of relevant State agencies NGOs.

            -The first Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on  “Help Age”, focused on the role of governments, family and local communities to assist the  elderly people was held in 2018 in Tehran. The Conference was organized with the collaboration of the National Welfare Organizations, National Council of the Elderly and UNPFA, and representatives from 23 countries attended the meeting.