



Bureau for Reconstruction and Development (BRD)

دبیا ودانولو او پراختیا موسسه

Verbal Statement on the Status of Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) in Afghanistan

In Pre-Meeting of the Committee on ICESCR –OHCHR, Palais Wilson, Geneva

Date: 3rd May 2010

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished ESCR Committee Members, Country Delegates, International NGOs Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen!

First I would like to thank you the committee Members for giving me the time to deliver my statement in the event of pre-meeting with NGOs before examining the report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Committee!

The Bureau for Reconstruction and Development (BRD) is a local Organization, work for the capacity building of the civil society for human rights advocacy, through network building and technical support CSOs to initiate advocacy strategies and campaigns. BRD currently supported the formation of CSOs Advocacy Networks in 6 Provinces of Afghanistan.

Distinguished Committee Members, Ladies and Gentlemen!

After thirty years of war and armed conflict in Afghanistan and the coming to power of a democratically elected government, the country witnessed important opportunities to ensure economic and social rights such as the international community's involvement in the reconstruction process.

Unfortunately, many opportunities were lost as a result of a weak and inefficient government and Afghanistan had continued to face many problems and challenges such as poverty, unemployment, underdevelopment, and consecutive droughts.

The Afghan government Acceded to the Covenant in 1983. Though many of the obligations of States parties to the ICESCR are of a progressive nature and subject to State resources, the inadequacy of existing resources must not be exploited as a pretext for a State's negligence and inaction.

The Afghan Constitution has guaranteed all the rights set forth in the ICESCR and required the government to fulfill economic and social rights. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Afghan Constitution are the two fundamental sources of the Afghan government's legal framework for the realization of economic and social rights which are complemented by Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

Which obliged the government of Afghanistan to protect these rights for its citizens, pave the way for social security, create conditions for enjoyment by the people of their right to an adequate standard of living, socially reintegrate returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), safeguard family life, and provide Afghan citizens with educational and health services.

The growing insecurity is viewed as the cause of deprivation of their economic social and cultural rights by the government of Afghanistan, but the poor economic and social situation in Afghanistan also represents a major source of insecurity across the country. We believe that the armed insurgency cannot be defeated solely through a military means, improving the security situation requires both the Afghan Government and the international community to socioeconomic development and an improved standard of living for Afghan People.

Afghan people are still live under the poverty line; the government of Afghanistan has also signed the MDGs in 2004, and has taken steps toward achievement of the MDGs goal No 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and has submitted the base line report.

Through the support of the international community the Afghanistan Government has developed a 5 years National Development Strategy in 2007 with wider consultation with the community representatives , but it remained only on paper , as 3 years has already passed and government has failed to deliver those commitments, made during the consultation process with the local communities.

There is very less progress towards implementation of obligation of the state toward CESCR, there are money factors that caused the failure of the state to take concrete steps and progress toward fulfilling its obligation.

We also believe that the lack of vibrant civil society in Afghanistan is one of the key factor, because a strong civil society to promote state accountability and to foster the respect of state treaty obligations regarding the promotion and protection of human rights.

Where the civil society in Afghanistan are faced with significant challenges of capacity and resources, unwillingness of the state for support to civil society development and also less support from the international community toward the civil society in Afghanistan.

Mr. President and Distinguished Committee members!

The Bureau for Reconstruction and Development (BRD) in collaboration with the Local CSOs Advocacy Networks which consist of total 150 Civil Society organizations , prepared a detailed status report on the status of implementation of the state obligation towards Economic Social and Cultural Rights in Afghanistan and submitted to the ICESCR secretariat.

I thank you all again for giving me the opportunity and time for delivering my statement.

Sincerely

Khan Agha Dawoodzai – Director

Bureau for Reconstruction and Development (BRD), Kabul, Afghanistan.