

**Statement by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the
Twenty-ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties
Under agenda item 22.5**

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation appreciates the efforts made and the informal meetings convened by distinguished ambassadors of Costa Rica and Germany and the Technical Secretariat on engagement with civil society. We support a strong and balanced participation of NGOs in the Conferences of the States Parties, based on a desire that the States Parties share since the 3rd Review Conference.

My delegation accordingly exercised flexibility in the informal consultations to reach an agreement for further facilitation of the accreditation of NGOs. After ten rounds of consultations, we believed that a consensus on the working paper proposed by the Co-Chairs was achievable and some minor changes could resolve any remaining concerns.

My delegation is ready to continue discussions, in good faith, to improve the procedure of the accreditation of the NGOs, in a way compatible with the Guidelines, the scope of the Convention, the principles of international law, and sovereign rights of the States Parties. We also reaffirm our preparedness to consider any proposals on further engagement with industry associations and academic institutions for a stronger and more balanced implementation of the Convention.

It is clear that in the absence of consensus on the Working Papers and its recommendations, the current procedure at the General Committee shall be observed and followed. Furthermore, any new framework for engagement with the NGOs and other civil society organizations needs consideration and approval by States Parties.

As this conference is requested to note the report of co-facilitators, it is important to know the purpose, and legal base, status and effects of the personal recommendations in the report, that are even more controversial than the recommendations which could not establish consensus. If the recommendations are to be further discussed, it shall be stipulated in the report of this Session. My delegation reemphasizes that any new rules for the NGO accreditation process needs further discussion and agreement by States Parties.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.